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MORE ABOUT POST BOX 506 LISBON

GABRIEL SASSOWER, 13 Belsize Road, London, NW6 4RX England

Until the rare and desirable cover, described and illustrated by Arthur Hecker in Romanian Philatelic Studies No.1/1984 came to light, the only missive known originating from Romania and helped to reach Britain during World War II, through Messrs Cook's good offices, was the one in my collection, Fig. 1. The mail-forwarding activities of this long-standing travel agency are reasonably well known in the Britain Isles; probably to a lesser degree elsewhere. Therefore, it seems to be useful to add to the information contained in Mr. Hecker's article.

1. Thomas Cook & Son Ltd. operated the service during World War I as well, according to literature from September 1917 onwards. Very few letters have survived; it is thought these reached Britain via a post box in Geneva, Switzerland (Keith Tranmer, in Stamp Collecting for 25 May 1972 (London), contemplates the possibility of Post Box Rhone 4116, Geneva, to have served the purpose). However, to my knowledge, this has not been established beyond doubt, as yet; one of the causes must be the fact that Messrs Cook's archives have been damaged during WWII. I had the opportunity to see a very small number of covers, all from the same correspondence, addressed to England, containing the original letters written in Germany during late 1917 to mid-1918. The address on the envelopes and the letters, in German, were, undoubtedly, written by the same hand. There is no way of telling, from the evidence appearing on the documents, how these pieces of mail got to London, where Cook posted them, as confirmed by the British adhesives perforated TC&S (the initials of the firm) and by Messrs Cook's rectangular cachets struck upon the envelopes. Theoretically at least, mail from occupied Romania could have travelled to Britain with Thomas Cook & Son Ltd's assistance; the above outlined two methods attempt to give minimal help for detecting them.

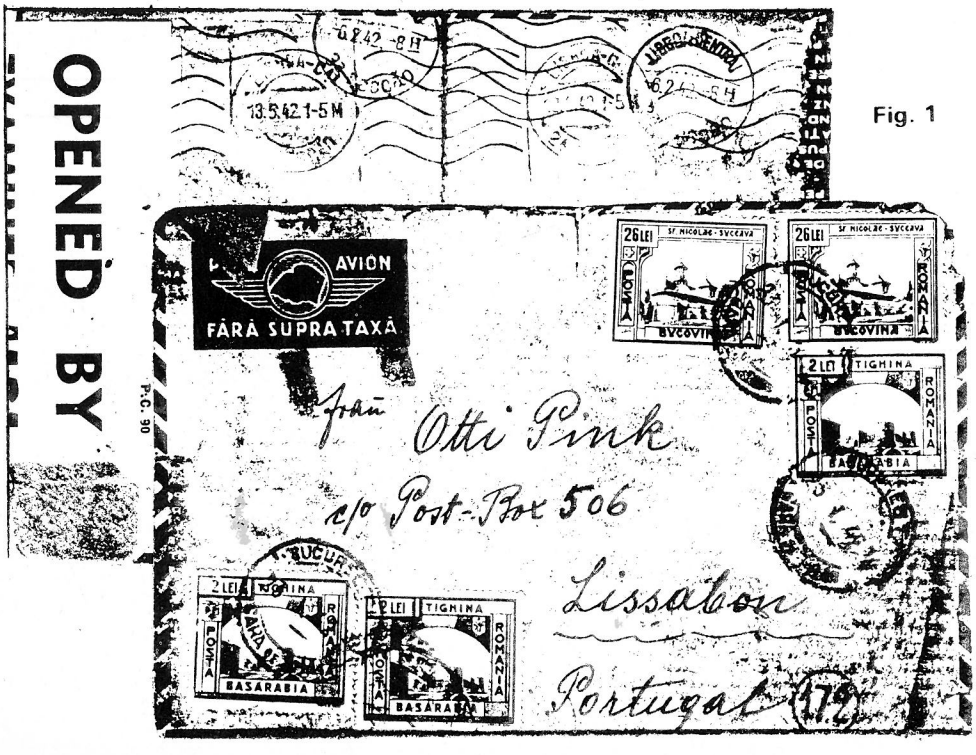

Fig. 1

2. Recent discoveries show that Messrs Cook, through their agency in Gibraltar, forwarded mail between the two parties of the Spanish Civil War. An English collector, known to me personally, possesses a few pieces of mail so circulated.

3. World War II. A reduced photographic reproduction of the Conditions issued in January 1942 is presented, Fig. 2, the original document, in my collection, measures 140.5 x 217.5 mm. I should mention that this is an independent leaflet- blank on the reverse- and not an announcement excised from a newspaper. Clause 4 (listing the items to be sent to Thos Cook & Son Ltd.) of an earlier version, dated July 1940, of which I have a photocopy, ends: "...and an open addressed envelope for the forwarding of a reply, should one be received from the correspondent." This refers to the British-based sender's self-addressed envelope, into which the travel agents inserted the cover received from enemy territory via the Lisbon post box and transmitted it to its destination in Britain; the two Romanian covers so far recorded, travelled in all likelihood in this manner.

Another method used, not necessitating the above described self-addressed envelope, is illustrated in Fig. 3. This missive, in my collection, was posted in Finland during 1943, being originally addressed to Post Box 506 Lisbon. After reaching Britain, obtaining release from the British censor and being returned to Messrs Cook for onward transmission, the travel agents covered the Lisbon address with a yellow sticker, showing the ultimate destination in the UK; they also applied an oval cachet of which several types are known. The adhesive, paying the domestic fee, is perforated with the initials of the firm, TCS. Covers forming part of this group are the most spectacular ones, as these bear always yellow stickers, oval cachets and adhesive stamps of two states (the country the mail originated from plus Britain.) Remains to be seen whether Romanian items, belonging to this category, would eventually turn up; such documents should exist, in principle.

Concluding, I wish to highlight an aspect of the envelope Fig.1 illustrates. It was posted on 23 January 1942 at Bucharest North railway station and arrived to Lisbon on 6 February 1942 (central post office, 3rd section). There is a second Lisbon marking on the back (central post office, 2nd section), dated 13 May 1942, struck over one of the two British censor labels; the reason for this has not been clarified yet. A.E. Gilbert, in Stamp Collecting for 21 December 1978 (London), describes a similar procedure used in 1944 (no mention, though, of a second British examiner's label), on a cover from Finland; the tentative explanation offered- British censorship in Portugal in order to increase security in readiness for the Allies' Normandy landing in 1944- does not seem to make sense, considering the year of circulation of the Romanian cover now presented. Nevertheless, the possible presence of a British censor in Lisbon can not be discarded.

Fig. 2

Conditions under which letters may be sent to relatives or friends in Enemy Countries or Enemy-occupied Territory.

Unless these directions are followed EXACTLY, delay and extra expense will result. These notes convey ALL information available.

The territories included in these arrangements are: Belgium, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Danzig, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Greece (Mainland), Greek Islands and Crete, Holland, Hungary, Italy and Italian Possessions, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Norway, Poland (German occupied), Roumania and Yugoslavia.

1. Communications must be clearly written or typed on one side of the paper only, on plain, unwatermarked stationery, and **must not exceed two pages of normal size**. Writers should not put more than one letter in the same envelope. Erasures and corrections or mutilated stationery and additions by other people are not permitted.
2. Letters and envelopes must omit the sender's address. They may be in English or in the language of the country for which they are intended, and must contain nothing but *matters of personal interest.*

   (*a*) No reference may be made to any town, village, locality, ship or journey, or to the Censorship or to any other phase of the war, or to Thos. Cook & Son, Ltd., or any of their offices, or to the means by which the letter is sent. No printed matter, map, plan, sketch, drawing, print, photograph, or other pictorial representation, or postage or revenue stamp, may be enclosed.

   (*b*) Business letters and letters containing directions about property or money matters must not be sent to Thos. Cook & Son, Ltd., but should be submitted by the sender to the Trading with the Enemy Branch of the Treasury and Board of Trade, Kingsway, London, W.C.

   (*c*) In letters intended for transmission to enemy territory or occupied territory mention must not be made of the receipt of a *letter* or *letters* therefrom. If desired, the addressee may be informed that his (or her) *news* or *message* has been received, but the *date of such message* must not be given.
3. Each letter must be placed in an open unstamped envelope fully inscribed to the addressee, who should be asked to address any reply to **your full name**, care of Post Box 506, LISBON, Portugal. Poste Restante addresses are not accepted. The use of titles or Naval, Military or Air Force rank is forbidden. *The Lisbon Post Box must not be mentioned on the envelope.*
4. The open envelope containing the letter should be placed in an outer stamped envelope and sent to THOS. COOK & SON, LTD., BERKELEY STREET, PICCADILLY, LONDON, W.1., together with a memorandum, plainly written, containing in BLOCK LETTERS the name (Christian name first) and full address of the sender. A married woman should give her own as well as her husband's initials.
5. The communication to Thos. Cook & Son, Ltd., must enclose Postal Order value 2s. (*stamps or International Coupons cannot be accepted*), which fee will cover the postage of one envelope containing one communication to the neutral country, and from the neutral country to the addressee, also of a reply (if any) from the neutral country to Messrs. Cook's Head Office in London, and from that office to the intended recipient. The fee does not include the cost of postage of the reply from enemy territory to the neutral country.

   For an extra fee of 6d. each, letters can be sent by Air Mail between London and Lisbon. *Envelopes must not be endorsed "Air Mail."*

   Thos. Cook & Son, Ltd., undertake this transaction at the sole risk in all respects of the party requiring their services, and on the express understanding that no action will lie against them by reason of any act or default on their part or on the part of any person or agent employed by them.
6. Letters under this scheme may not cover remittances, directly or indirectly, to enemy territory, for which a licence of the Trading with the Enemy Branch (*see paragraph 2b above*) is necessary.
7. Communications for Prisoners of War, *i.e.*, British and Allied Naval, Military, and Air Force prisoners and Civilian internees, must not be sent under the foregoing arrangements, but forwarded in accordance with the regulations of which particulars may be obtained at any Post Office.

Parcels cannot be dealt with under the foregoing scheme.

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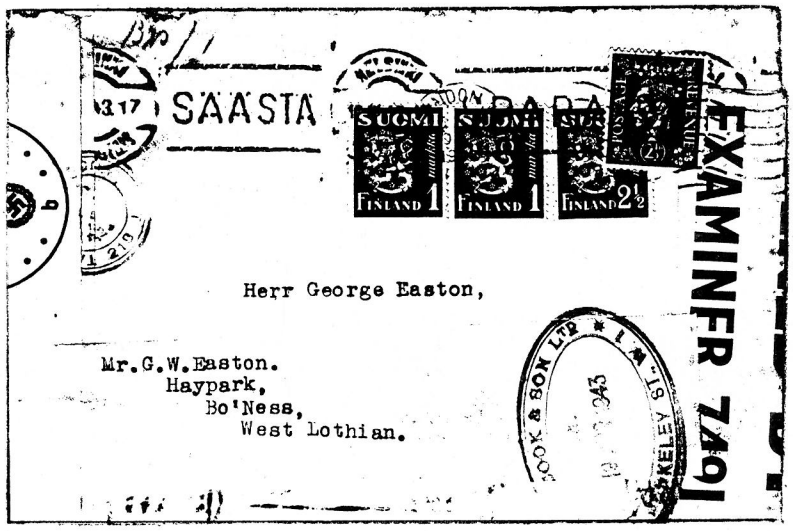
Fig. 3

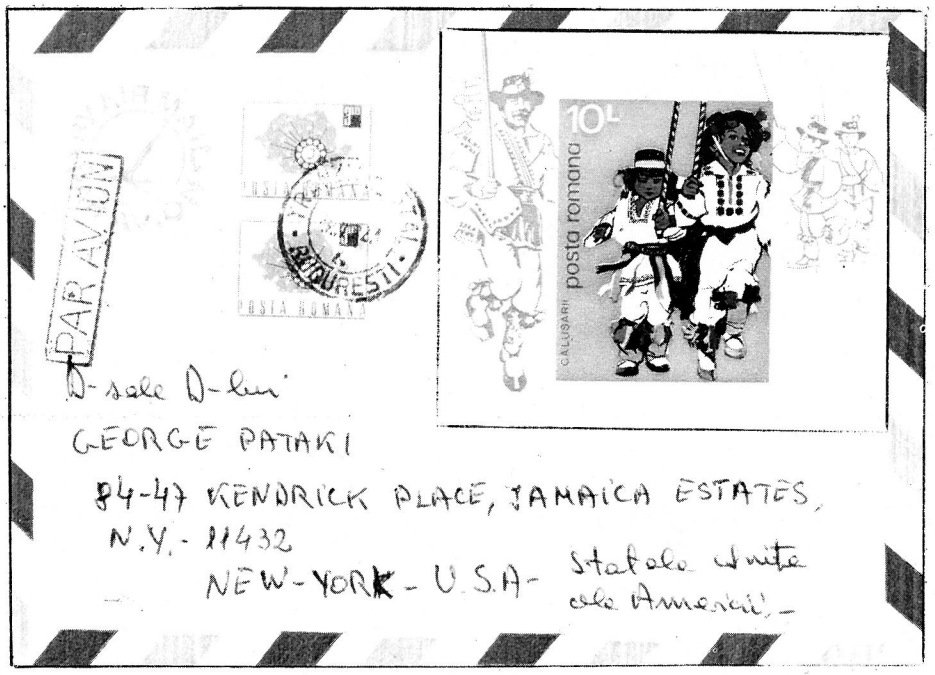


Romanian Souvenir Sheets

George Pataki

"Post-War Romanian Souvenir Sheets", published in R.P.S. No. 3/1983, illustrated such items affixed on postally used covers. For this article, I selected choice examples from my collection. I have many other postally used covers, with combinations of souvenir sheets and stamps making up the required fees. However, while the Romanian posts always obliterate their stamps, they leave many sheets uncancelled. The frequency with which we find such omissions makes it highly unlikely that they are due to mere negligence; it seems rather tha some clerks, not used to seeing souvenir sheets on mail, do not know exactly what they are, large and fancy postage stamps. Thinking that these sheets are not postal items, they do not obliterate them when they cancel the stamps affixed on the very same covers. Such covers, originating as they do from a variety of cities, show that this ignorance is not localized but is widespread.

Some sheets, sold at face value or slightly higher, at special philatelic stores, occasionally are used by philatelists as postage; others are sold with restrictions, at much higher prices. For instance, the



imperforate sheet commemorating the Helsinki Agreement's 10th anniversary, was sold not through the post offices, but through the Philatelist's Association of Romania, for 393 Lei, rather than its 10 Lei face value. One wonders how a new issue can be officially sold at a much higher price than its face value and what happens to the 3,830% instant profit? Under these circumstances, we should not expect to see the imperforate Helsinki souvenir sheet affixed on a cover and used as 10 Lei postage, but if this was not its intended purpose, can it be called a postal item?

During visits to Romania, I often asked clerks selling postage stamps if they also had souvenir sheets. Not only did they never have any, but some admitted that they did not even know about their existence. Thus, it is no wonder that some postal clerks take care not to deface with their handstamps what they believe to be pretty propaganda labels affixed on some covers.

I collect these souvenir sheets, but only if they are postally used on cover. In a few instances, having received on mail uncancelled sheets, and considering them of no philatelic value in this condition, I soaked them off and returned them to the sender. After some months, the same souvenir sheets would be back on another cover. Again the stamps affixed nearby would be obliterated, but the sheet once more would remain uncancelled. After yet one more return, I would only see the same sheet on the next letter, a bit worn by repeated use, but still uncancelled. One sheet travelled back and forth, crossing the Atlantic several times, always returning uncancelled, until I got sick of it and destroyed it.

These kinds of cases are exceptions, the majority of souvenir sheets affixed on covers are cancelled. Nevertheless, this proves that many postal clerks don't recognize them as postal items, valid for paying postage, because they are not sold at the post offices and because they see them very rarely affixed on mail.

Inverted overprint appears on Hungarian Harvester issue

By Dr. John H. Jenny Reprinted from LINN'S STAMP NEWS JANUARY 30, 1984

The breakup of the Austrian Empire is a most interesting period not only in classical history but in the history of philately.

New republics were created, and the old empires and kingdoms disappeared. The map of Europe showed new and renewed countries of Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Poland, as well as enlarged areas of Italy, Serbia and Romania.

During this period, many occupying countries used the postal practice of overprinting indigenous stamps. These overprints often carried the name of the occupying country, its coat of arms, new values and other identifying insignia.

When Hungary and its southern provinces were occupied by the Serbian Armed Forces, it was necessary to set up postal services.

In the city of Temesvar (now Timisoara in the Romanian area known as Timis) and in the surrounding areas, Hungarian stamps were overprinted by the Serbian postal authorities.

During the period immediately following World War I, Vienna was a haven for the sale and trading of philatelic items. The city was visited by businessmen in all areas of trade.

Many times during that period, when national currencies fluctuated greatly from day to day, postage stamps were used in lieu of the inflated currencies.

In this clandestine trade practice, stamps of countries which prohibited the export of philatelic items frequently appeared.

A fascinating story of the discovery of the inverted overprint in the Hungarian series known as Scott 9N1-9N4 was told to me by Otto Wlaschim of New York City.

This inverted 30-filler overprint on the Hungary 2f Harvester stamp was discovered by Otto Wlaschim.

Otto's father was a stamp dealer in Prague (then known as Bohemia). Prior to the hostilities and sensing the mood of the times, Wlaschim moved his business to Vienna (circa 1899).

When young Otto returned from military service in 1919, he joined his father in the stamp business.

Among those who visited the stamp shop in Vienna was a philatelist from Budapest, Hungary. On one of his visits, he brought a lot of Temesvar overprints. These stamps were in full sheets of 100, and the man sold the Wlaschims five full sheets of each value.

After several years of retailing the first 400 sets of the five values, Otto Wlaschim noticed that the next sheet had an inverted overprint of the "30 filler" on the 2-filler Harvester stamp of Hungary.

After that, the Wlaschims sold only the four stamps in the set of the Temesvár overprints and kept the sheet with the inverted overprint.

The Wlaschims tried to verify the authenticity of the overprint by contacting the postal authorities in Budapest. The authorities informed them that "on orders of the government" all the overprint plates were destroyed, and no material was available for authenticating.

There was no doubt in the minds of the Wlaschims or with other dealers that the sheet with the inverted overprint was genuine. The man who sold them the sheets had not even known of its existence.

Some of the overprinted stamps were sold in Vienna, while others were sold at auction. A partial sheet of 85 stamps is still in the possession of Wlaschim.

The inverted overprint was listed in Scott catalog around 1940 as 9N2a after the sheet of stamps was submitted to the Scott organization for inspection.

A similar invert appears on the 50f on 20f stamp of the Charles IV issue. ■

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D.D.S.G. Parcel Control Labels

George Pataki

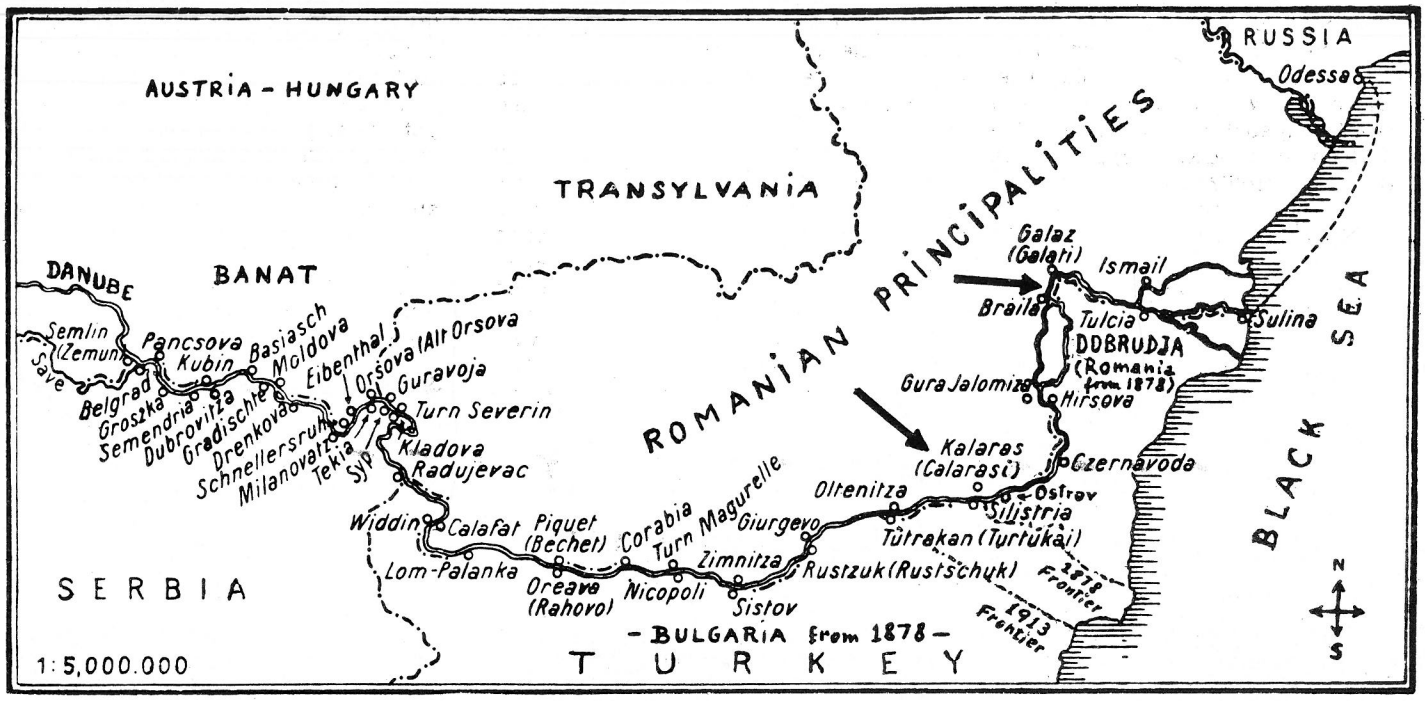


Figure 1.

1829 saw the creation of the Austrian "Donau Dampfschiffahrts Gesellschaft" (The Danube Steamship Navigation Company) to transport cargo and passengers. From 1846 on, as part of its agreement with the government, it also carried Austrian official mail free of charge. Due to inefficiency of the local postal service, various D.D.S.G. office agents and ship captains would unofficially forward private mail. This practice became so widespread, that in 1838 the Austrian posts prohibited such activities for mail collected in foreign ports and sent to Austria. In 1866, the company officially started handling correspondence between ports on the Danube located in Austria-Hungary, Serbia, Romania, and what is now Bulgaria (Turkey at that time). Between 1869-1870, with the agency in Odessa also processing mail, their route was extended to Russia.

On April 15, 1866, the company issued its first postage stamps. Others were printed between March, 1868 and 1870. This private concern also used its own cancellers. These obliterations are well described in "Austrian Post Offices Abroad, Part Six", by S.D. Tchilinghirian and W.S.E. Stephen, with additions in "Austrian Post Offices Abroad" by Gabriel Sassower, as published in "Austria" (The Austrian Stamp Club of Britain), No. 63/1983.

Besides their postage stamps, which are private local issues, the D.D.S.G. used several types of parcel control labels. These attested to payment for various services such as parcel post, insurance, fiscal charges, etc. These labels generally have denominations in the currency of the country they were used, such as "Pfennig", "Kreuzer", "Heller", "Fillér", "Dinar", "Centimes", "Leva" and "Bani". While D.D.S.G. letter services ended in Romania in 1875, and those in Dobrudja in 1880, parcel post service continued.

This article deals only with the parcel control labels used in 5 Danubian ports (Galaţi, Brăila, Călăraşi, Ostrov, and Silistra), where probably large numbers of packages were handled (Fig.1). The labels (Figs.2-8) show denominations in "Bani", the Romanian currency and come perforated or imperforate. Of large size, they measure about 58 by 58 mm. from perforation tip to perforation tip, with designs of 55 by 55 mm. The perforation is 9½, with coarse, irregular teeth. Printed lithographically by H. Engel & Sohn of Vienna, Austria, they are on white, wove, unwatermarked, gummed paper. The top text reads: "D.D.S.G." while the denomination is at

Figure 2.

Figure 3.

Figure 4.

Figure 5.

Figure 6.

Figure 7.

Figure 8.

bottom. Between these appears "Gepäck-Control-Marke" (Parcel Control Stamp) and the route (for example "Galaz-Braila").

By comparing data found in "Die Marken der Donaudampfschiffahrts-Gesellschaft" (published in "Donau-Post" of June 5, 1924), and in "Die Verrechnungsmarken der Donau-Dampfschiffahrts-Gesellschaft", by Josef Sturany (published in "Die Postmarke" of Dec. 6, 1924), with the collection of Denwood N. Kelly of Baltimore, Md. (containing 127 such labels), I was able to put together the following information:

Two groups of labels exist, one for the Galaz-Braila and Braila-Galaz linear shuttle service and the other for the Kalaras-Ostrov-Silistria triangular service. No forgeries are known but reprints were probably made in shades and colors differing from those of the originals. Galaz (today spelled Galați) and Brăila are Romanian cities located north of the Danube River; Kalaras (today spelled Călărași) is north of the Danube in Romania; Ostrov is south of that river in Dobrudja (Turkey until 1878, Romania after that); Silistria (today spelled Silistra) is south of the Danube in Dobrudja (Turkey until 1878, Bulgaria later or until 1913 when it was attached to Romania but it returned to Bulgaria as a consequence of World War. II.)

Printed in sheets of 20 labels, each pane consists of 5 horizontal rows of 4 items (Figs.9-12). While the company issued most sheets perforated, some were left imperforate. All sheets consist of only labels for one specific route. Some contain all 20 of the same denomination (20 or 40 Bani), while others (such as the Galaz-Braila) have in their 2 left columns ten of the 40 Bani and in their 2 right columns ten of the 20 Bani. This results in 5 possible se-tenant pairs with different denominations (Fig. 13).

All labels bear the Romanian currency "Bani", even the one presumably used in Bulgaria (Silistria nach Ostrov-Kalaras.) It seems that border towns readily accepted Romanian currency and for accounting purposes it was more convenient to use only one type of currency.

The following labels are known to have been issued:

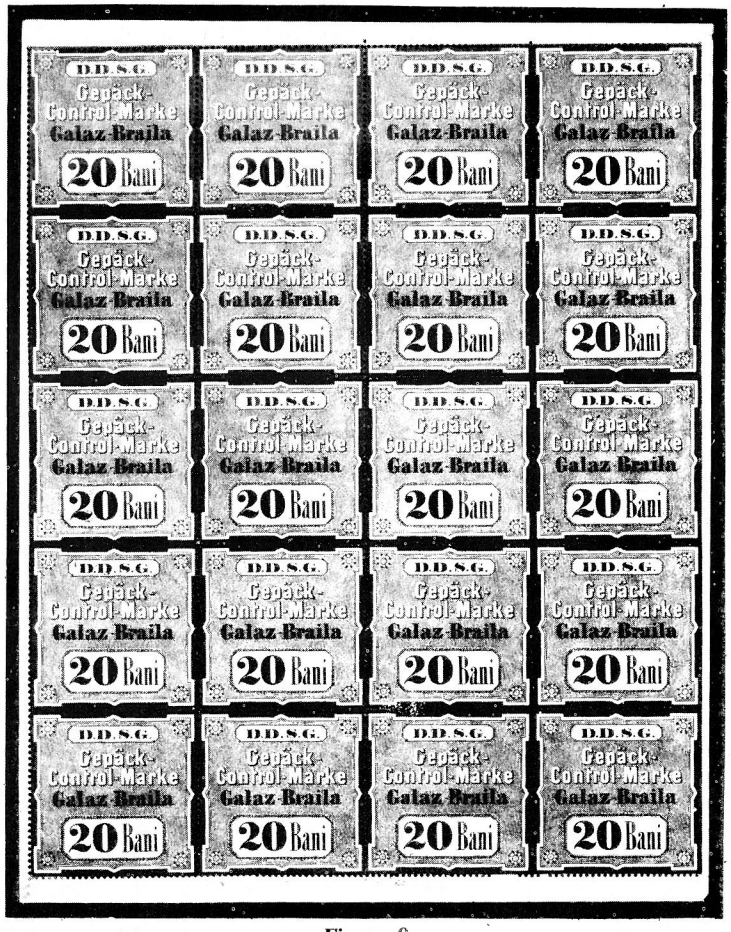


Figure 9.

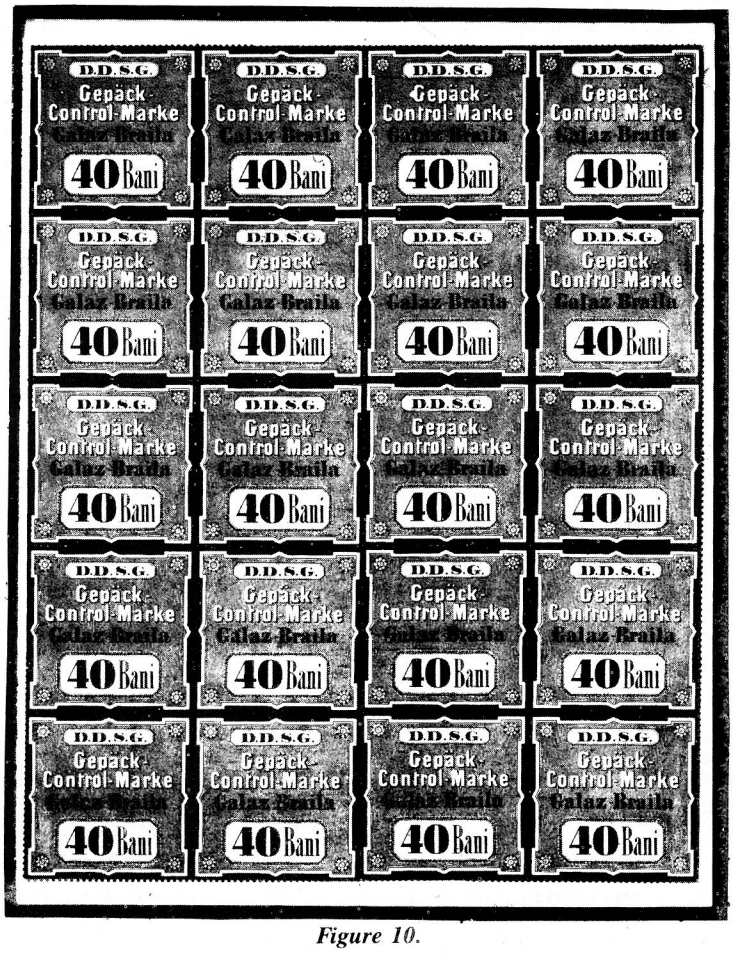


Figure 10.

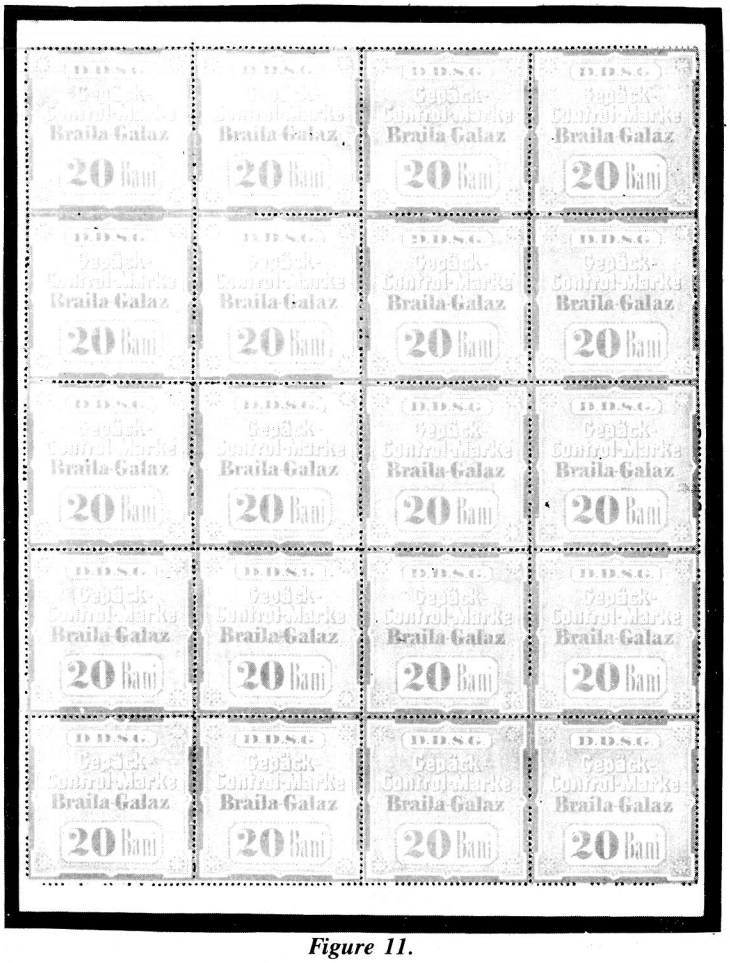


Figure 11.

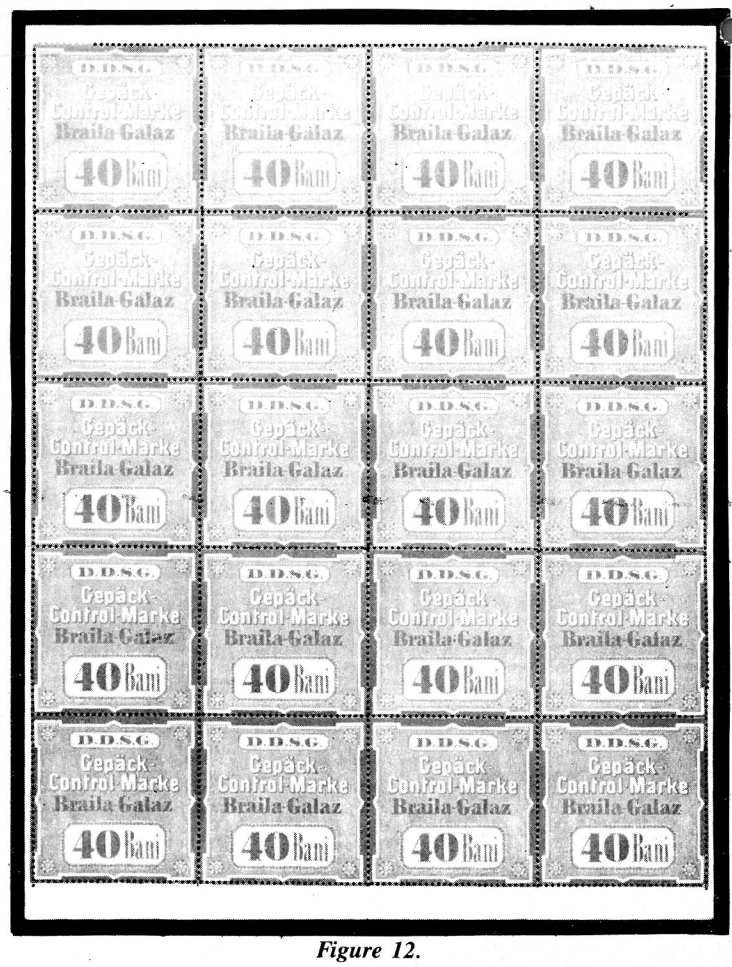


Figure 12.

No.	Denomination	Color	Inscribed Route
1	20 Bani	brownish red	Galaz-Braila
2	40 Bani	brownish red	Galaz-Braila
3	20 Bani	light rose red	Galaz-Braila
4	40 Bani	light rose red	Galaz-Braila
5	20 Bani	bright rose red	Galaz-Braila
6	40 Bani	bright rose red	Galaz-Braila
7	20 Bani	pale blue green	Braila-Galaz
8	40 Bani	pale blue green	Braila-Galaz
9	20 Bani	yellow green	Braila-Galaz
10	40 Bani	yellow green	Braila-Galaz
11	20 Bani	yellow brown	Braila-Galaz
12	40 Bani	yellow brown	Braila-Galaz
13	40 Bani	dark brown	Kalaras nach Ostrov-Silistria
14	40 Bani	yellow	Ostrov nach Kalaras-Silistria
15	40 Bani	blue	Silistria nach Ostrov-Kalaras

Figure 13.

Sturany also lists green, light brown and yellow for the Braila-Galaz labels. As these colors do not appear in Kelly's collection, we presume such are simply shades of the above listed colors. Moreover, Sturany gives the perforation for all the labels as 10½, however, all I checked gauged 9½.

According to the article published in "Donau-Post", the Galaz-Braila and Braila-Galaz labels were issued both in 1874 and 1884 while those for the triangular service between Kalaras, Ostrov and Silistria were not issued until 1884, thus after Ostrov became Romania and Silistria became Bulgaria.

To complicate matters, "Billig's Philatelic Handbook", Vol. I (Third Revised Edition, 1963) gives the date of issue for all these labels as 1888 and the perforation as 10½. For the Galaz-Braila labels, Billig lists red brown, lilac red, carmine and brick red, for both the 20 and the 40 Bani. Also, for the 20 Bani Braila-Galaz label, Billig catalogues yellow green and blue green (as found in the Kelly collection), instead of yellow brown, lists the tow separate colors of yellow and brown. For the Kalaras-Ostrov-Silistria labels, besides the dark brown color found by us, Billig's listing presents us with chocolate, blue and golden yellow. Furthermore, while Billig does not at all include the "Ostrov nack Kalaras-Silistria" label, this must be an omission, this item being known to exist.

Labels affixed on packages (or shipping forms) were obliterated with the D.D.S.G.'s own cancellers. Such items are very scarce

because they were usually destroyed with the wrapping paper. In the Kelly collection, out of 127 such labels only 4, all of the Galaz-Braila type, show a cancellation.

While the D.D.S.G. serviced many Danubian ports in several countries, it used these parcel control labels only in the 5 ports on the aforementioned routes.

The words, "Gepack-Control-Märke" (Parcel Control Stamp), suggest that the purpose of these labels was to show that the fee for "controlling" the package had been paid, with controlling probably meaning that a D.D.S.G. employee signed for the package to guarantee its delivery; thus this item served as a kind of registration label. However, it is possible that they were some simple routing instructions.

Regarding, the need for two denominations, one could guess that it had something to do with the weight or size of the packages.

The exact purpose of the "control labels", their period of use, why the same routes (Galaz-Braila and Braila-Galaz) utilized different denominations (20 and 40 Bani) and colors, etc. are questions still waiting for substantiated answers.

Romanian Listings in 5 Catalogues

George Pataki

Having compared Scott (1979), Minkus (1982-1983), Michel (1979), Gibbons (1980) and Zumstein (1982), we present our conclusion. The table below notes only how these catalogues vary from each other; if all five matched as regards a certain aspect, it does not show such an observation. For example, on most items all quoted much higher prices, to varying extents, than average existing market prices, and for scarce postally used items (such as souvenir sheets and wartime issues with very short periods of postal use) all five quoted about the same prices (and in some instances, even lower valuations than) for the same items in mint conditions which are abundant.

The various catalogues treat the "occupation" issues differently. In our opinion, all such issues, if printed or overprinted by a Romanian authority or used on Romanian territory, should interest the Romanian specialist. Therefore, it would serve a purpose to list them in the Romanian section.

None of the 5 catalogues lists the 1919 Arad and Timisoara (Romanian cities) issues or the 1919 and 1920 Debretin issues (overprinted by Romanian authority) in their Romanian sections; instead, one can find them in the Hungarian section because the basic, unoverprinted stamps are Hungarian issues. To complicate the situation, the 1919 Cluj and Oradea issues are listed by Scott under Hungary, while the other 4 catalogues place them under the Romanian heading.

The Romanian sections of Scott and Michel list the overprinted foreign issues (Austrian, Bulgarian, German) used in Romania during temporary foreign occupations, Minkus and Zumstein omit them (Zumstein lists the Bulgarian issue in the Bulgarian section), while Gibbons lists the Bulgarian and German overprints, omitting the Austrian ones.

Many of the postal tax stamps find a place in all 5 catalogues but numerous special issues, free franks, revenues and Cinderellas are generally omitted, with Michel and Zumstein listing a few of them.

While illlustration for later stamps generally were good, those for some earlier ones are so bad that they don't even resemble the stamps they mean to portray. In fact some show counterfeits instead of genuine ones. Examples of such abound: Scott #1, 22, 33, 40, 44, 73, 76, 94, 108, etc.; Minkus #1, 5, 6, 7, 29, 32, etc.; Michel #1, 5, 6, 11, 14, 17, 21, 26, 36, 55, 57, 77, 94, 162, 173, etc.; Gibbons #1, 6, 47/48, 52/53, 55, etc.; Zumstein #1, 5, 6, 010, 11, 14, etc.

Some captions are incorrect. Scott says that type SP133 represents "Romanian Troops Crossing Sereth River to retake Bessarabia", while Minkus claims that the same stamp (#907) depicts "Troops crossing Sereth river into Bessarabia, Antonescu". This proves that the editors often copy each other's mistakes without bothering to check the facts. Any map should show that entering Bessarabia from Romania involves crossing the Pruth River and not the Sereth. Furthermore, on the very same stamp, around the Marshal Ion Antonescu's portrait, there appears his famous order: "Va ordon treceti Prutul", which translates as "I order you to cross the Pruth".

Some catalogues give incorrect translations of the Romanian texts. Scott translates the text on B429 as "Mail Coach in the Snow", Gibbons, for the same stamp (#3775), gives "Mail-Cart in the Snow"; Minkus simply calls it "Mail Coach". The Romanian text, however, reads "Postalion iarna", which means "Mail Coach in the Winter". Michel and Zumstein got it right.

Some yield incorrect data. For instance, Scott gives the correct date of issue "1864" for #19-21 correctly on the top of the listing but the text twice mentions the wrong date, "1863".

We also can see inconsistencies. Some list one unissued set (Cuza) but don't list another unissued set (Ferdinand). Or, Scott captions #287, 2055 and B89 as "Michael the Brave" while the same ruler later on (#2571-74) becomes Michael the Bold".

Across all its illustrations, from the first issue to about 1947, Scott places a white horizontal line, as was the custom in the early days. This was originally done to comply with the archaic laws of the U.S. books concerning reproducing stamps. This proves that Scott has never bothered to redo the affected illustrations, but has carried them over from one edition to the next.

All stamp catalogue editors that I talked to, claim to have difficulties with annual updating. They say that they receive new issue data and illustrations from Romania only after great delays.

Closer examination of all these catalogues shows that periodic reviews are necessary. Missing issues should be included, the text should be corrected where incorrect, bad and misleading illustrations should be replaced and prices have to be adjusted to reflect actual market values.

The number assigned to each stamp differs in each catalogue. While it would be costly and difficult to change all the numbers in all catalogues, so that they conform, if this were done it would be very advantageous for collectors and dealers alike.

	SCOTT	MINKUS	MICHEL	GIBBONS	ZUMSTEIN
Listings	sep. semipostals, air	chronologically	chronologically	chronologically	chronologically
Quantities issued	no	no	yes	no	no
Name of dsgnr/engrvr.	no	no	yes	yes	yes
Add. inf. paper, printing, varieties, etc.	some	little	plenty	some	plenty
Year of issue for every set	yes	yes	yes	yes	no
Paper stock	good	good	poor	very good	good
Illustration quality	fair/good	good	poor/good	good/very good	fair/good
Illustration size	medium	medium	small	medium	small
Illustrates all stamps of dif. design	no	no	yes	no	yes
Illus. all souvenir sheets	no	no	yes	no	yes
Lists special issues, revenues, etc.	no	no	some	no	some
Lists unissued Cuza stamps	yes	yes	yes	no	yes
Lists unissued Ferdinand stamps	no	no	yes	no	not illust.
Lists 1919 Pokutzia issue	no	no	yes	no	yes
Lists 1919 Cluj, Oradea issues	no	yes	yes	yes	yes
Lists Austrian occupation issue	yes	no	no	no	no
Lists Bulgarian occupation issue	yes	no	no	yes	no
Lists German occupation issues	yes	no	no	yes	no
Lists 1944/45 Northern Transylvania issues	no	no	yes	no	yes
Lists telegraph stamps	no	no	yes	no	no

AUSTRIAN POST OFFICES ABROAD

Danubian Principalities, Dobrudja and a few related matters

by GABRIEL SASSOWER, Reprinted from "AUSTRIA" Spring 1983

In the following, it is proposed to list details, noted during the last nine years, which are at variance with or constitue an extension to the information provided by Tchilinghirian and Stephen (hereafter referred to as T&S) in their Parts Two, Three, Six and Seven.

Among other works, reference is being made to:

U. del Bianco: Il Lloyd Austriaco e gli annulli marittimi dell'Austria-Ungheria, Volume Secondo (Milan, 1978)

H. & B. Birnbach: Moldau-Walachei (Rumaenien) die fremden und einheimischen Posten bis 1875 (Berlin, 1930)

A. Clement: Handbuch der Feld-und Militaerpost in Oesterreich (Graz, 1964)

A. E. Glasewald: Die Post im Kriege (Gössnitz, 1913)

E. Mueller: Handbook of the pre-stamp postmarks of Austria (New York, 1960)

Gr. Racoviceanu: Stampilele postale folosite in Tarile Romine pina in anul 1881 (Bucharest, 1963)

Please note:

(a) The accuracy of the illustrations taken from T&S or from the other sources quoted, remains the respective authors' responsibility. The illustrations of the markings recorded by the present writer, whilst not absolutely accurate, are sufficiently correct in order to convey their general appearance.

(b) T&S were the first authors to examine methodically the usage of the additional postal markings (RECOMANDIRT, FRANCO etc.) from office to office; for this reason, the present writer employs in the listing the expression " ... not recorded by T&S", regardless whether the usage of the respective handstamp was unknown generally or only to T&S at the particular office.

(c) Unframed P.D. handstamps (sloping characters) have been observed on missives originating from Czernavoda, Giurgevo, Kustendje, Ploiesti, Sulina; also a two-line A/P.D. on a letter from Braila. As these "Paid to Destination" markings were often applied "en route", the listing does not attribute them to any particular office.

(d) The reason for finding circular postmarks without date (or with manuscript date) and late usages of early-type linear handstamps without date (for example at Jassy) on postal receipts, is due to the fact that a space was provided on the forms, specifically for manually writing in the date; therefore, a mechanical dating device was not necessary. The postmarks were applied purely in order to officially identify the origin; the early linear types were, of course, eminently suited for this purpose.

(e) Although a number of Starostie Agencies' administrative cachets (explicitly containing the word "Starostie") have been recorded, postal significance is attributed to those of Campina and Ploiesti only.

(f) The colour of the listed postmarks is black, unless otherwise mentioned.

(g) Regarding the fate of the consular post offices during the 1854-57 military occupation, attention is invited to the opinion expressed by Birnbach and Birnbach, namely, that both the static military post offices and the consular ones functioned paralelly and in cooperation. Whilst this view is different from that of the other well known authors, the Birnbachs produce a number of seemingly plausible arguments in support of their theory.

(h) The Franz See sale referred to in the listing is the auction held by Corinphila, Zurich, on 9th May 1979; the writer has personally seen the items quoted.

(i) Information regarding usage of adhesive stamps is being given in a few instances only.

PART TWO

CHAPTER VI AUSTRIAN LLOYD: BLACK SEA LINES

(1) CONSTANTINOPLE-VARNA-KUSTENDJE LINE (T&S page 85)

VIA KUSTENDGE & VIENNA — **Type 1; according to T&S, this is an arrival marking of Kustendje (Constantza). It should be noted that (a) Mueller does not list it among ship arrival markings, (b) del Bianco considers this handstamp to be a route instruction, applied at Constantinople; the writer is of the same opinion.**

VIA KUSTENDGE & VARNA — Not recorded before by any author; an envelope, lot 2672, sold by

Robson Lowe in Basle, 10th October 1969, shows this handstamp. According to the auction catalogue, the missive dates from 1863, Constantinople to Paris, the strike being in blue, as the Austrian cds of Constantinople (Fig. 1). A route instruction marking applied at origin; the reason for the two Black Sea ports appearing together and their sequence is not clear. Further information needed.

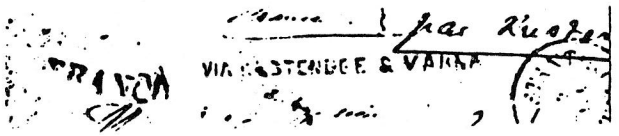
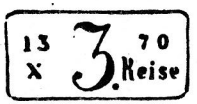
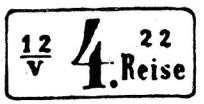


Fig. 1.

PART THREE
CHAPTER VIII DANUBE STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY (T&S p.191)





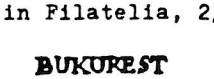
Standard Type "DR"; markings, inclusive of Sub-Types, listed by T&S without being specific about them. In the writer's opinion, these ship cancels were used on the four times a day trips of the Galatz-Braila shuttle service, although the ten letters noted, showing these handstamps, travelled in the Galatz to Braila direction; not seen for the return journey. Nine missives were from 1870, one from 1871. Certain authors' opinion that the numbers above "Reise" represent the year, is considered questionable, as the covers in the Robson Lowe 14th March 1972 Basle auction, the Steindler sale, clearly demonstrate otherwise. See the writer's article in The London Philatelist, September-October 1979; among others, a DDSG parcel (luggage?) control stamp is illustrated, inscribed GALAZ-BRAILA and cancelled with a Reise 3 marking.

PART SIX
CHAPTER XXVIII THE DANUBIAN PRINCIPALITIES later ROUMANIA
(E) AUSTRIAN CONSULAR POST OFFICES (T&S page 439)

(1) BUCHAREST

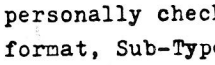
Type 1. Listed by T&S beginning with 1816; earlier strike reported by Dr Tripcovici, on 1811 letter to Hermanstadt (Filatelia, Bucharest, 12/1970). Another strike, on a letter dated 21 January 1811, reported by Voiculet-Lemeny (Filatelia, 1/1978).

Type 2. Listed by T&S beginning with 1820; earlier strike reported by Dr Tripcovici, on 1817 letter to Kronstadt (Filatelia, 12/1970). This seems to be the correct spelling and layout of the marking, confirmed also by Franz See, as stated in Filatelia, 2/1971.



Not recorded by any author, until reported by Dr Tripcovici on 1819 letter to Kronstadt (Filatelia, 12/1970); another 1819 letter, to Paris, seen in the F. See sale, lot 2304.

Sub-Type 6A, name 24 x 3 mm. Existence, queried by numerous collectors during the last twelve years, remains to be ascertained, as all the information in the literature is based on Racoviceanu, now deceased; whenever auction lots were personally checked, the strike proved to be the larger format, Sub-Type 6B, name 30 x 4 mm (approx.).



Sub-Type 6B. Listed by T&S from 1854 only; earlier usage known, 3rd October 1846, on a letter to Lyon, writer's collection (other pre-1854 dates also recorded). Later usage known, in February 1855, during the military occupation, on a letter to Constantinople (Birnbach and Birnbach); additionally, two January 1855 letters are reported, displaying this handstamp. Only marking of Bucharest met also in blue (shades): dated 27th December (year?), on a letter to Vienna, Franz See sale; dated 22nd December, on 1849 letter to Vienna, N. Blistyar collection, Bocsa; dated 1st May, on outer lettersheet (1849?) to London, writer's collection.

Type 7. T&S, who list this marking beginning with 1854, when the office opened, are somewhat vague about the actual month; Mueller and Clement state November 1854. Two ex offo 1854 letters, each showing this postmark dated 5th October, in the writer's collection, confirm the office's activity earlier; one letter's contents indicate clearly military presence on 10th September 1854. Indeed, according to Birnbach and Birnbach, who quote contemporary newspapers, the occupation of the

Principalities took place gradually, between 23rd August and 2nd October 1854.

Not recorded before by any author; "Früh" means "Early". Seen on 1862 prepaid stampless letter to Constantinople, Franz See sale; another strike, dated 2/8, seen on unprepaid letter to Genoa (year not stated), in the Ebner exhibit, "London 1980".

FRANCO

Paid marking not recorded by T&S. Seen on the above letter to Constantinople; others known.

RECOM.

Registration marking not recorded by T&S. On stampless letter to Vienna (1856?), Corinphila sale 3rd June 1981, lot 6941.

NACH ABGANG DER POST

meaning "After departure of mail"; not recorded by T&S. Only "too late" marking observed from the Principalities; seen on 1866 letter to Vienna, Franz See sale.

22.5 x 14 mm oval with two-line "Uber Preussen" meaning "Through Prussia"; on the aforementioned letter to London showing the dated linear marking (1st May) Sub-Type 6B. A route instruction marking, tentatively attributed to Bucharest, mostly on the ground of the greyish-blue ink being identical with that of the date stamp; the main itinerary to England was indeed through Aachen, i.e. Prussia. Further evidence required before a conclusion can be reached.

(2) BACAU

RECOM.

Registration marking not recorded by T&S. Seen on prepaid stampless letter to Vienna (year not stated), in the Ebner exhibit, "London 1980".

FRANCO

Paid marking not recorded by T&S; seen on the above letter to Vienna. A blue strike on 1862 letter to Vienna, Feldman sale Zurich September 1981.

(3) BERLAD

Type 3. Seen in greenish-blue on 1868 registered ex offo letter to Hermanstadt, in the Künzi exhibit, "London 1980"; T&S records this colour in 1858 only.

RECOM.

Registration marking not recorded by T&S. A greenish-blue strike seen on the above letter to Hermanstadt; the handstamp is listed by Clement as well, used during the military occupation.

(4) BOTTUSHAN

BOTUSCHANY

41 x 5 mm single-line marking not recorded before by any author; illustration approximate. Seen on 1844 letter to Vienna, Franz See sale lot 2314. Strike somewhat unclear, suggesting the name of this office; further confirmation needed, although existence reasonable, the type being consistent with similar markings of early offices at Bucharest, Galatz, Jassy. The year of opening of the Bottushan office is stated to be 1836, therefore the single-line marking could have preceeded the dated linear handstamp.

BOTTUSCHAN
25. DEZ.

Type 1. T&S state (a) usage from 1836; this is questionable as according to Mueller dated linear postmarks were issued beginning with 1839 only (town name in upright or italic capitals), (b) non-usage during the military occupation; however, Birnbach and Birnbach illustrate and describe an 1855 (March) registered stampless letter to Roman, displaying this postmark. Likewise, Clement lists usage during the military occupation; the letter he illustrates, showing the 25th December strike, is superscribed "1854" in pencil. (The colour of ink unknown in both cases).

Type 2. Usage on stampless letters not seen by T&S; an 1864 letter to Vienna, showing a blue strike, was offered at the Robson Lowe 10th October 1969 Basle sale, lot 2704.

FRANCO

Paid marking not recorded by T&S. Appears on the above letter to Roman, the colour of the ink is unknown.

RECOMANDIRT

Registration marking not recorded by T&S. A blue strike appears on a letter to Terescheny, Bucovina, in the writer's collection; others known.

(5) BRAILA

IBRAILA
13.SET

Type 1. A green strike with date inverted seen on 1850 letter, Franz See sale, lot 2344 (part). T&S records this colour in 1855 only.

Type 2. According to T&S, probably used at Braila during May 1855 to April 1857; to the writer's knowledge, convincingly confirmative items have not been illustrated anywhere so far. As against this, a green strike of Type 1, dated 29th December, appears on 1855 military letter to Como (writer's collection); another strike, dated 12th August, noted on a registered stampless 1856 outer lettersheet to Triest, Franz See sale, lot 2344 (part).

Type 3. Not recorded by T&S on stampless mail; numerous examples observed, one in the writer's collection on 1867 letter to Vienna.

RACCOM: Registration marking not recorded by T&S. Consistently with other handstamps of Braila, it is in Italian; seen on the aforementioned August 1856 outer lettersheet to Triest. Other seen on 1865 letter to Vienna, Franz See sale, lot 2318.

FRANCA Type 4. According to T&S, believed used at this office in conjunction with Type 1; confirmation provided by two letters in the writer's collection. Others known.

(8) CRAIOVA

Type 2 when date shown; not recorded without date. Seen with manuscript date on 1855 postal receipt, Franz See sale, lot 2322.

FRANCO Paid marking not recorded by T&S. Seen on 1856 letter to Vienna, used in conjunction with Type 2, Franz See sale, lot 2323 (part).

(9) FOCSANI

Type 1. T&S state usage of this military marking during November 1854 - April 1857; later 1857 usages known, all on the same Focsani to Paris unprepaid correspondence: three letters in the writer's collection, the handstamps dated 13/8, 7/9 and 12/10 (Fig. 2) respectively, one letter in the Kuderewicz exhibit, "London 1980" the handstamp dated 14/9. These letters clearly confirm usages after the closure of the military post offices in the Principalities on 16th April 1857 (similar cases are well known from Bottushan and Ploiesti); see writer's article in The London Philatelist, January-February 1981.

Type 1 when date shown; not recorded without date. Seen with manuscript date on 1856 postal receipt, Ebner exhibit, "London 1980"; previously illustrated by Clement.

FRANCO **Paid marking. Although appearing on a letter illustrated by T&S on page 432, it is not listed on pages 450-51; others known. A blue strike in the D. Passalega collection, Craiova, used in conjunction with Type 2, also in blue; others known.**

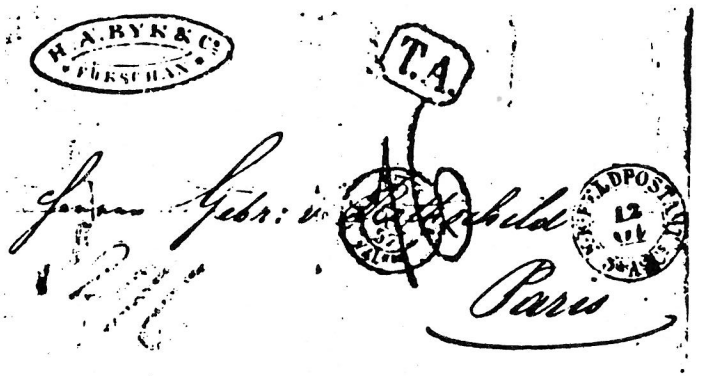


Fig. 2. Latest known usage of Type 1 of Focsani, at this office: 12th October 1857.

(11) GALATZ

GALACZ This is the correct spelling of T&S's Type 2; a number of letters known. Not to be confused with a Romanian marking, spelled GALATZ, seen used on documents circulating between indigenous postal authorities:

GALLATZ 11.FEB. Type 3. Listed by T&S beginning with 1846; earlier usage seen, 30th October 1845, on a letter to Triest, Harmers of London sale 16th June 1981, lot 430 (part). T&S consider last year of usage to be 1854; later dates noted: 11th February,

10th March, 30th September 1856, 30th January 1857, during the military occupation (others known) and 30th June 1857, all in the writer's collection.

Type 5. T&S list blue colour beginning with 1861; a number of earlier strikes known, for example on a July 1859 letter in the writer's collection.

Type 7. Not recorded by T&S on stampless mail; a number of letters observed, one in the writer's collection, dated June 1868, sent unprepaid to Marseille. Mention should be made here of a remarkable cover to Vienna, franked with a pair 2 soldi and a pair 3 soldi Austrian Levant adhesives; the above cancellation is dated 31st March 1869, the last day of Austrian and Hungarian consular postal services in the Principalities (Ryan coll.)

RECOMANDIRT Registration marking not recorded by T&S. A blue strike seen on 1862 letter, Franz See sale, lot 2331 (part); black strike seen on 1866 letter to Vienna, Ebner exhibit, "London 1980". Others known.

LAUT ANGABE meaning "As stated"; money letter marking not recorded by T&S. Seen on 1862 prepaid letter, Franz See sale, lot 2331 (part); only case observed from the Principalities.

(12) GIURGEVO

Type 1. T&S list blue colour in 1863; an earlier strike known, December 1862, on a stampless letter to Vienna, writer's collection.

RECOM. Registration marking not recorded by T&S. Seen on 1868 letter to Vienna, Franz See sale, lot 2344 (part); other known.

FRANCO Paid marking not recorded by T&S. Seen on 1861 letter to Vienna, used in conjunction with Type 1, writer's collection; others known.

ADHESIVES T&S consider the usage of the 1864 issue 2 soldi pf. 9½ stamp unlikely; however, lot 112 in the H. R. Harmer 28th October 1974 London sale consisted of a cover front to Vienna, franked with two pairs and a single. Later on formed part of the Künzi collection.

(14) JASSY

Type 1. This is the correct appearance of the marking; a few letters known, one, dating from 1819, to Leipzig, seen in the Franz See sale, lot 2333.

Type 2. T&S record blue strike on 1857 postal receipt; later usage seen, again in blue, on 1859 postal receipt, Franz See sale, lot 2439 (part).

Not recorded before by any author; identical with Type 2, although without frame. A blue strike seen on a postal receipt (1863?), Franz See sale, lot 2334 (part). Not known on mail.

JASSY Type 4. According to T&S, issued cca. 1840; earlier strike appears on 1837 letter in the Dr P. Hirsch collection. Late usages on postal receipts: black strike in November 1867, blue strike in December 1868, both seen in the Franz See sale, lot 2335 (part); T&S record late usage in 1857, blue.

Not recorded before by any author; seen on 1855 postal receipt, Franz See sale, lot 2335 (part). Frame size 15.5x5.5 mm. Not known on mail.

Jassy Not recorded before by any author; a blue strike appears on 16th April 1857 (day of closure of military post offices) postal receipt, Köhler October 1978 sale, Wiesbaden, lot 4622. Not known on mail.

Type 6. According to T&S, issued cca. 1844; the Ebner exhibit, "London 1980", displayed a letter stated to be from 1842, the strike dated 15th August.

Type 8. According to T&S, issued in 1857; earlier strikes known, attesting usage during the military occupation, such as on April 1855 cover from France, in the writer's collection. Additionally, August 1855 and September 1856 strikes noted, latter in blue; the Birnbachs illustrate a March 1855 strike, colour not stated.

ADHESIVES Back in 1913, Glasewald mentions "Blue Mercuries" obliterated with military markings of the 1854-1857 occupation; a newspaper (periodical) wrapper was sold by Corinphila, Zurich, on 3rd June 1981, lot 6951,

the Blue Mercury being cancelled with the Type 7 of Jassy (Fig. 3). Glasewald does not give any details; the wrapper now described can not be considered as proof of these adhesives being in use locally. In all probability, the stamp was left uncancelled at origin (a well known procedure for newspaper sendings) and subsequently obliterated on arrival.

Fig. 3. FELDPOST No.2 of Jassy obliterating a Blue Mercury.

(15) PIATRA

Type 1. See writer's article in AUSTRIA No. 59.

(16) PITESTI

Type 1. Usage on stampless letters not known to T&S; an 1855 letter, to Austrian Galicia, seen in the Franz See sale, lot 2336. As arrival marking recorded on two military letters, one auctioned by Corinphila, Zurich, on 3rd June 1981, lot 6944; the other in the writer's collection.

RECOM. Registration marking not recorded by T&S. Noted on two letters to Verona, see under.

COVERS Not listed by T&S; two noted, both sent registered to Verona: (a) with pair 3kr. plus 9kr., showing three strikes of Type 1, seen in the Ebner exhibit, "London 1980", (b) with 3kr. plus two 6kr., showing two strikes of Type 1, auctioned by Corinphila, Zurich, on 3rd June 1981, lot 6957. These covers must be of considerable rarity.

(17) PLOIESTI

The present illustration is taken from L. Dengel's article appeared in Romanian Philatelic Studies No.2, 1981, New York; the dimension of this circular marking inscribed K.K.AGENTIE STAROSTIE ZU PLOYEST is not indicated. It differs clearly from T&S's Type 1, stated to be a 29 x 32 mm oval, inscribed K.K.AGENZIE STAROSTIE IN PLOEST. The writer suspects T&S's details being based on Racoviceanu; remains to be ascertained whether the Starostie used two cachets or, much more likely, the information given by T&S is not accurate. Incidentally, the dimensions communicated for the Campina Starostie cachet vary as well: T&S 29 x 32 mm, Dengel 23.4 x 30.2; however, judging from the proportions of the marking's reproduction, one of Dengel's dimensions must be incorrect, probably the 23.4 mm.

Type 3 when date shown; not recorded without date. Seen in this form on 1867 postal receipt, Franz See sale, lot 2338; now in the G. Ryan collection.

RECOM. Registration marking not recorded by T&S. Appears on a stampless letter to Roman, illustrated by Birnbach and Birnbach, showing also the military marking of Ploiesti, T&S Type 2; colour unknown.

FRANCO Paid marking not recorded by T&S. A blue strike, used in conjunction with Type 2, appears on a letter to Linz, in the writer's collection; others known.

(18) RIMNIK

Type 1. See the writer's article in AUSTRIA No. 59.

(19) ROMAN

Type 2 when date shown; not recorded without date. Seen in this form on postal receipts, for instance black and blue-black strikes on two 1857 receipts, in the writer's collection; other known.

FRANCO Paid marking not recorded by T&S. A blue strike, used in conjunction with Type 2, appears on 1857 registered letter to Berlin, Franz See sale, lot 2342; likewise in the Passalega collection, on 1859 letter, colour of ink not known to the writer.

(21) STIRBEY

Type 1. See writer's article in AUSTRIA No. 59.

(F) POSTAL AGENCIES OF THE D.D.S.G.

(32) GIURGEVO

Not recorded before by any author; a blue strike appears on 1867 shipping document in the writer's collection (Fig. 4).

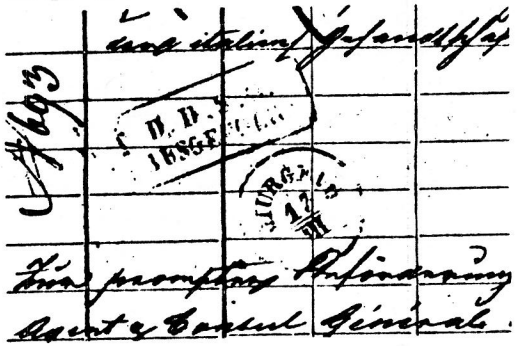


Fig. 4. First recorded strike of the D.D.S.G.'s circular date stamp of Giurgevo. (Partial illustration of document)

Type 7 (both Sub-Types). In the writer's opinion this is not more than a sender's cachet; this view seems to be confirmed by the examples seen so far.

(41) OTHER D.D.S.G. MARKINGS

Type "DM". In the writer's opinion, this marking, noted on 1852 to 1854 mail from Braila to Galatz (and not vice-versa), can not be attributed with certainty and/or exclusively to the D.D.S.G., see writer's article in The London Philatelist, September-October 1979. A further dimension to the problem is added by the fact that, according to del Bianco, the regular local trips between Braila and Galatz, during 1852 and 1853, were carried out by the Austrian Lloyd's vessel Danubio (I).

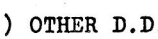
(E) JOINT AUSTRIAN CONSULAR AND LLOYD POST OFFICES

(1) TULCEA

Type 1. 1858 is the earliest date listed by T&S; lot 7322 Köhler sale, February 1981, Wiesbaden, is described to be an 1853 letter with this marking in blackish-green. The illustration in the auction catalogue shows this handstamp on a missive to Galatz. T&S, after Mueller, states that the Lloyd Agency in this locality was closed during 1848-58; the writer takes this to mean postal agency, as del Bianco lists detailed shipping activity during the above period. The discrepancy between the date of the above letter, 1853 and the decade of claimed closure of the agency, 1848-58, needs further clarification. A late strike seen on the reverse of an 1883 cover to Triest franked with a 25 bani Romanian adhesive, the correct U.P.U. rate; the stamp is cancelled with the Romanian postmark of Tulcea, dated 24th July 1883. This cover was sold at the David Feldman auction, Zurich, September 1979, lot 1114A. One can only speculate about the status of this blue oval strike; the reverse of the cover shows another cachet as well, possibly sender's. The Austrian office closed in 1879.

Type 2. T&S list blue colour beginning with 1861; earlier strike seen, on a December 1860 circular to Vienna, Franz See sale, lot 2440 (part).

Registration marking not recorded by T&S. Seen on a letter to Dornbach, Ebner exhibit, "London 1980".



Paid marking not recorded by T&S. A blue strike, used in conjunction with Type 2, appears on 1861 letter to Constantinople, Robson Lowe sale, 20th March 1980, Basle, lot 1522.

STATIONERY

Not seen by T&S; an 1874 postcard to Pesth, the pink 4 soldi value cancelled with Type 2, was auctioned at the Franz See sale lot 2348; exhibited by Mme. Kuyas, "PhilexFrance 82".

(2) SULINA

A Lloyd oval has not been recorded before by any author; the Garmiryan exhibit at "PhilexFrance 82" displayed a

greenish negative strike, on a letter claimed to be from 1856 (Fig. 5). According to Mueller, the postal agency opened in May 1858 only; due to the discrepancy between this date and the stated date of the missive (1856) plus the difficulty of examining an item protected by an exhibition frame, further investigation is needed before a conclusion can be arrived at.

STATIONERY

Type 2. Not recorded by T&S on stampless mail; seen on 1874 letter to Triest, Franz See sale, lot 2356 (year and marking wrongly described in the auction catalogue).
Not listed by T&S; a postcard to Triest, the pink 4 soldi value cancelled with Type 1, in the Feldman sale Zurich, Sept.'79, lot 1087.

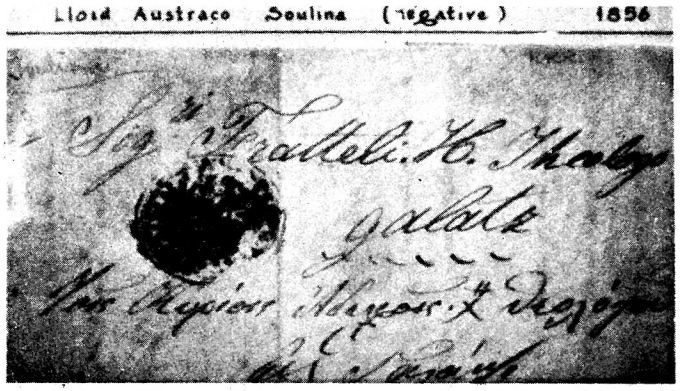
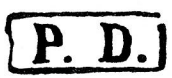


Fig. 5. Alleged Lloyd oval seal of Sulina (applied upside-down)

(3) KUSTENDJE (CONSTANTZA)



Type 5. In the writer's opinion, this marking was not applied at this office; reason: this very handstamp appears on one of the well known Danube & Black Sea Railway mixed franking covers, also illustrated by Denwood N. Kelly in The London Philatelist, May 1951. The missive is addressed to England and, in all probability, travelled via Aachen and Ostend; this type of "Paid to Destination" marking was widely used at Aachen.

(F) JOINT CONSULAR AND D.D.S.G. POSTAL AGENCY

(4) CZERNAVODA

ADHESIVES

No examples of 1863 pf. 14 stamps known to T&S; an 1865 letter to Italy, reported to be in the Künzi collection, displays among others three 2 soldi stamps cancelled with Type 2 (illustrated by del Bianco).

D.B.S.R.

T&S's claim that the 20 paras stamp of the Danube & Black Sea Railway is met with either Type 1 or Type 2 marking of this office, remains to be substantiated.

(G) POSTAL AGENCIES OF THE D.D.S.G.

(8) SULINA

Oval handstamp not recorded by T&S or any of the "classical" authors; a strike, shown cancelling a 10kr. D.D.S.G. stamp on a missive to Braila, is illustrated by Dr Karl Vodrazka in "150 Jahre DDSG Früher Postdienst"; the letter is stated to be from 1870, the adhesive red, forming part of the Dr Jerger collection.

ADHESIVES

D.D.S.G.'s 10 kreuzer lilac, cancelled with a blue strike of Type 3 of this office, in the writer's collection; this value used at Sulina was unknown to T&S.

Articles for the bulletin

The readers are invited to send the editor original research articles. Short notes or lengthy studies are equally welcome. Good illustrations are important. Articles sent in Romanian language will be translated by the editor.

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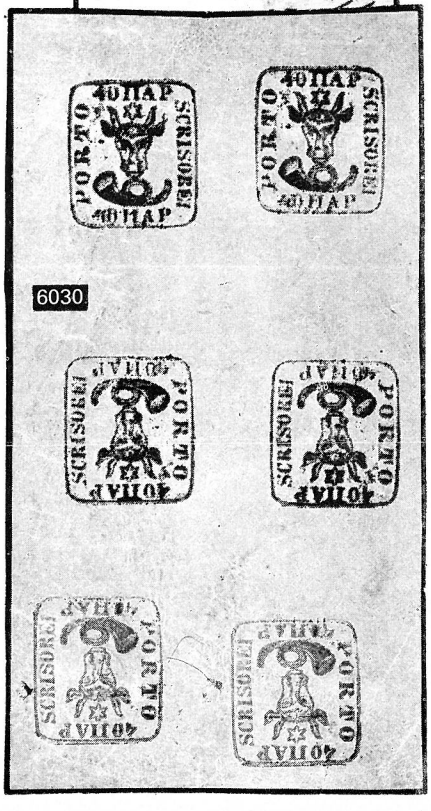
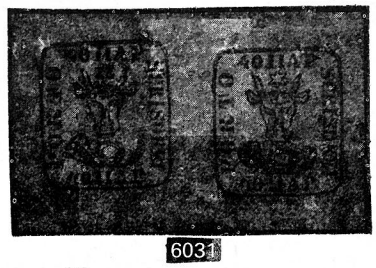
ISTORIA POSTALA A SIBILULUI (Postal History of Sibiu) by Emanoil Munteanu, with a large chapter on the **HOHE RINNE** local posts, is available from the **EDITOR** for $11.00.

COMMENTS on published articles can be sent directly to the authors.
INQUIRIES regarding the **ROMANIAN PHILATELIC CLUB** or the **ROMANIAN PHILATELIC STUDIES** can be sent to the editor.

Los-Nr.		Michel-Nr.		Startpreis SFr.
6025	40 P. blau, sehr breitrandig mit vollem Original-Gummi!	6 ax	*	250.–
6026	40 P. blau, sehr breitrandig auf attraktivem Briefstück, gez. Bolaffi (im linken Aussenrande unbedeutendes Fältchen).	6 ax	△	200.–
6027	40 P. blaugrünlich, tadelloser und attraktiver Dreier-Streifen auf schönem Briefstück. Im Zwischenraum des rechten Paares senkrechte Faltspur. Gez. Bolaffi.	6 ax	△	1000.–
6028	40 P. blau, prächtiger Vierer-Streifen in hervorragender Qualität!	6 ax		800.–
6029	40 P. blaugrünlich, gut erhaltenes Paar, rückseitig auf kleinformatigem R-Brief, gez. Bolaffi.	6 ax	⊠	800.–
6030	40 P. blau bis dunkelblau, sehr schönes Blockstück von 6 Marken, die beiden unteren Exemplare entgegengesetzt. Oben im rechten Rand kleine Papierverletzung, sonst gut.	6 x K	**/*	2000.–
6031	40 P. blau, schönes und breitrandiges Paar.	6 y	*	200.–
6032	40 P. blau, sehr breitrandig auf attraktivem Briefstück, beste Erhaltung.	6 y	△	150.–
6033	40 P. blau, tadellos und sehr sauber gestempelt, gez. Diena.	6 y		100.–
6034	40 P. blau, tadelloses Paar.	6 y		200.–
6035	40 P. blaugrünlich, tadellos auf kleinformatigem Briefchen, violettblauer Stempel von JASSY. (Y. 2'500.–)	6 y	⊠	500.–
6036	40 P. blau, tadellos auf Brief von PIATRA. (Y 2'500.–)	6 y	⊠	500.–
6037	3 Exemplare der 40 P. blau auf gut erhaltenem Brief. Rechte Marke unten rechts im Aussenrande kleine Papierfehler, sonst gut. Seltener Brief!	6 y	⊠	800.–
6038	Vierer-Streifen der 40 P. blau auf sauberer Briefvorderseite, recht gut erhalten.	6 y	⊠	800.–
6039	40 P. blau und Dreier-Streifen der 80 P. ziegelrot, zusammen als attraktive und äusserst seltene Frankatur auf Brief. Die rechte Marke der 80 P. zeigt bei der Durchsicht im rechten Rand eine kleine leichte Stelle, sonst tadellos. Gez. Bolaffi und Diena.	6 y + 7 y	⊠	2000.–
6040	40 P. dunkelblau, sehr schönes Kehrdruck-Paar.	6 y K	*	400.–
6041	40 P. grünlichblau, tadelloses Kehrdruck-Paar.	6 y K	*	400.–
6042	40 P. hell- bis dunkelblau, tadelloser Bogen von 32 Marken mit 8 Kehrdruck-Paaren!	6 y K	**/*	3000.–





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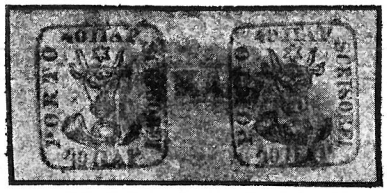

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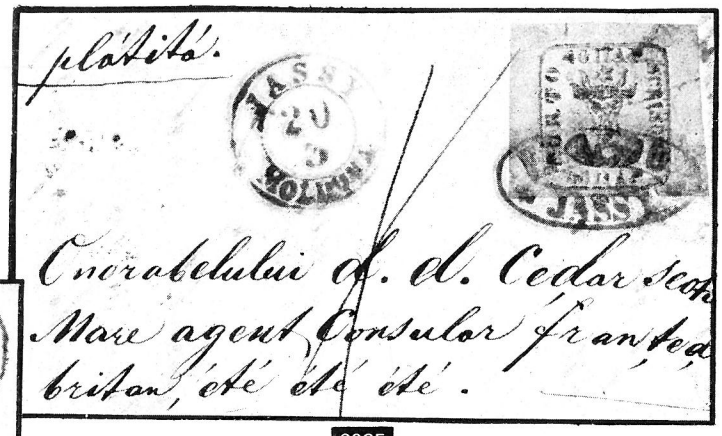

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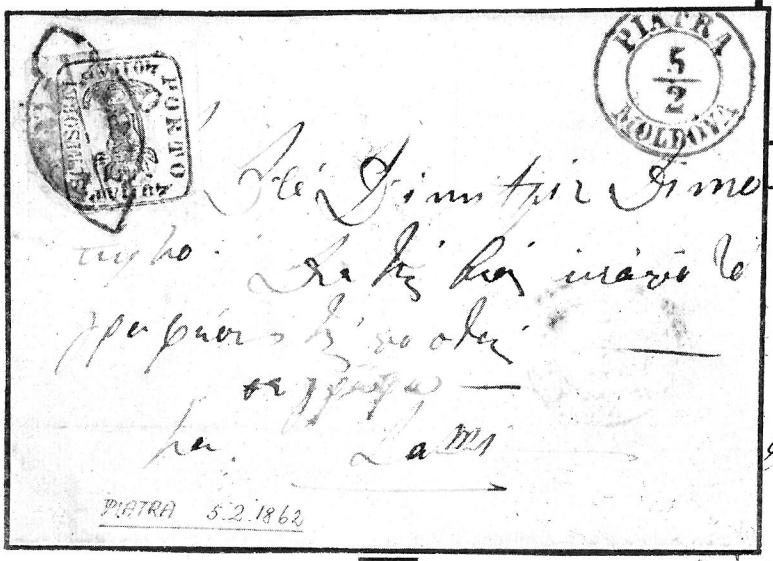

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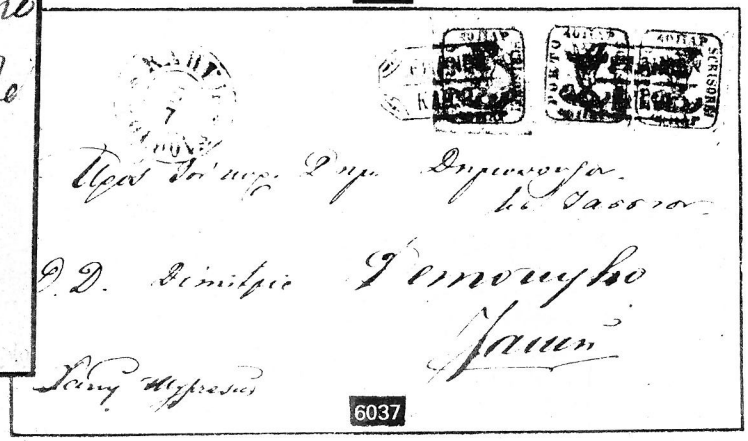

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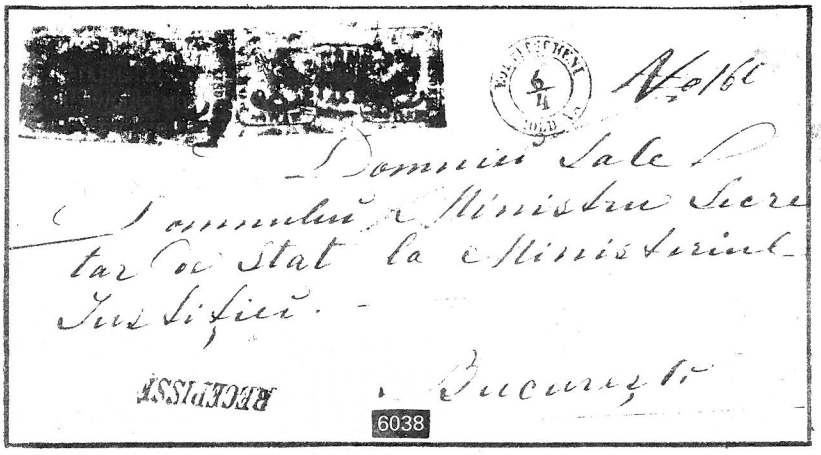

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Los-Nr.		Michel-Nr.		Startpreis SFr.
6043	80 P. ziegelrot, breitrandig und sehr frisch, voller Original-Gummi! Excellentes Qualitätsstück! Attest Diena.	7 x	*	5000.–
6044	80 P. ziegelrot, frisch und tadellos auf hübschem Briefstück, gez. Bolaffi.	7 x	△	500.–
6045	80 P. ziegelrot, sehr breitrandig auf Briefstück, frisch und tadellos erhalten, gez. Bolaffi und Diena.	7 x	△	500.–
6046	80 P. ziegelrot, tadellos mit blauem Stempel, gez. Diena.	7 x		400.–
6047	80 P. dunkelziegelrot, aussergewöhnlich frisch und breitrandig auf prächtigem Brief nach JASSY, gez. Bolaffi und Diena. (Y. 15'000.–).	7 x	⊠	2000.–
6048	80 P. ziegelrot, hervorragend erhalten!	7 a y	*	400.–
6049	80 P. dunkelziegelrot, frisches Paar mit Original-Gummi, gez. Diena.	7 a y	*	800.–
6050	80 P. ziegelrot, frischer und breitrandiger Viererblock mit Original-Gummi. Rückseitig teils leichte Stockflecken und Büge.	7 a y	*	1000.–
6051	80 P. ziegelrot, sehr breitrandiges Paar bei dem vorderseitig eine 3. Marke aufgedruckt wurde. Einzig bekannte Abart dieser Art aus der Rotschild-Sammlung. Einige minime Papiermängel müssen toleriert werden.	7 a y	*	3000.–
6052	80 P. ziegelrot, tadellos auf Briefstück mit attraktivem Stempel.	7 a y	△	250.–
6053	80 P. dunkelrot, breitrandig und frisch, tadellos erhalten, gez. Diena.	7 ay		200.–
6054	80 P. ziegelrot, tadellos mit rotem Stempel auf Briefstück.	7 ay	△	150.–
6055	2 Exemplare der 80 P. rot auf weissem Briefstück mit attraktiven roten Stempeln.	7 ay	△	400.–
6056	80 P. ziegelrot, tadellos erhalten auf sehr sauberem Brief. (Y. 5'000.–)	7 ay	⊠	800.–
6057	80 P. ziegelrot, sehr frisch und tadellos auf sauberem Brief! (Y. 5'000.–)	7 y	⊠	600.–
6058	80 P. ziegelrot, sehr breitrandig und frisch auf Briefteil nach JASSY.	7 ay	⊠	500.–
6059	80 P. dunkelziegelrot, frisch und sauber auf Brief (dieser oben leicht defekt). Y. 5'000.–	7 ay	⊠	500.–
6060	80 P. ziegelrot, teils sehr breitrandig auf Brief. (Y. 5'000.–)	7 ay	⊠	500.–
6061	Paar der 80 P. ziegelrot auf vollständigem Brief in guter und frischer Erhaltung, gez. Diena.	7 ay	⊠	1000.–
6062	2 Einzelstücke der 80 P. auf Briefteil in frischer und guter Erhaltung. Seltener Beleg! Gez. Bolaffi und Diena.	7 ay	⊠	1000.–
6063	2 Exemplare der 80 P. ziegelrot auf Briefvorderseite in guter und sauberer Erhaltung, gez. Diena.	7 ay	⊠	800.–
6064	2 Exemplare der 80 P. auf Briefvorderseite, recht gut erhalten und selten, gez. Bolaffi und Diena.	7 ay	⊠	800.–
6065	2 Exemplare der 80 P. ziegelrot auf schöner Briefvorderseite. Eine Marke weist ausserhalb kleines Eckfältchen auf, sonst gut.	7 ay	⊠	500.–
6066	80 P. dunkelziegelrot, prächtiges Kehrdruck-Paar in hervorragender Qualität!	7 ayK	*	1000.–
6067	80 P. ziegelrot, frisches und leicht gestempeltes Kehrdruck-Paar. In der Mitte Faltbug, sonst tadellos, gez. Diena. Gestempelt ist dieses Kehrdruck-Paar ausserordentlich selten.	7 ayK		2000.–
6068	80 P. bräunlichrot, sehr frisch und breitrandig, bestens erhalten.	7 by	*	500.–
6069	80 P. dunkelziegelrot, 2 tadellose Einzelstücke zusammen auf kleinem Briefstück.	7 by	△	500.–

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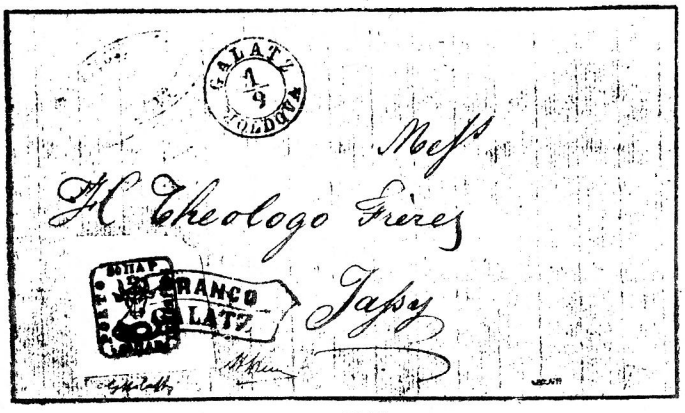

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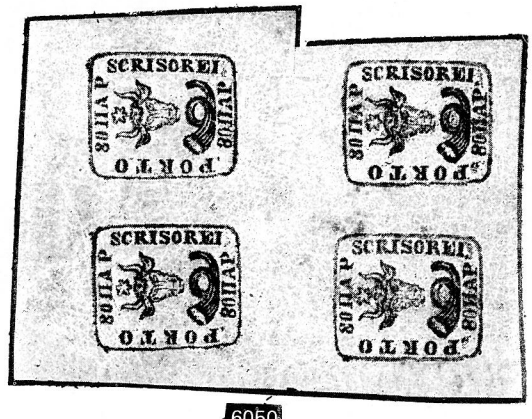

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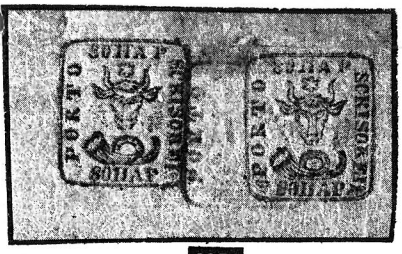

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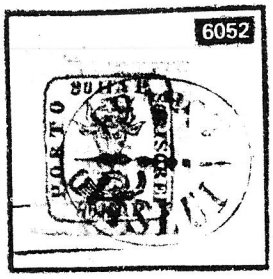

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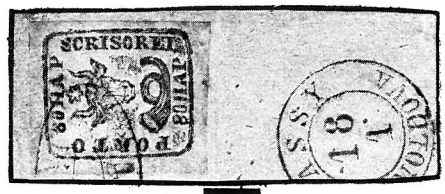

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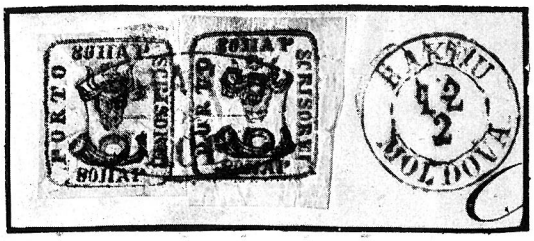

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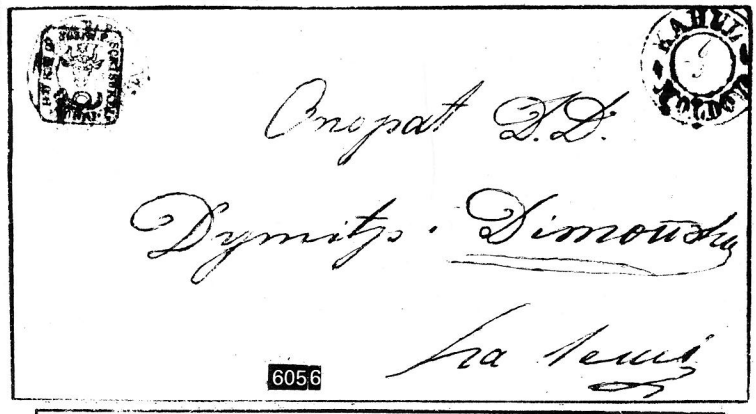

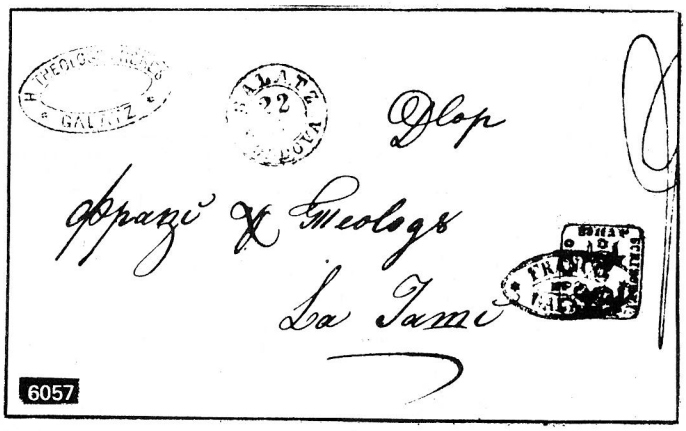

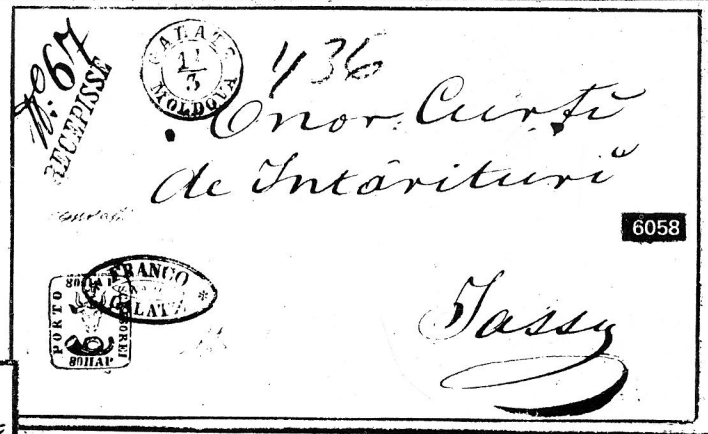

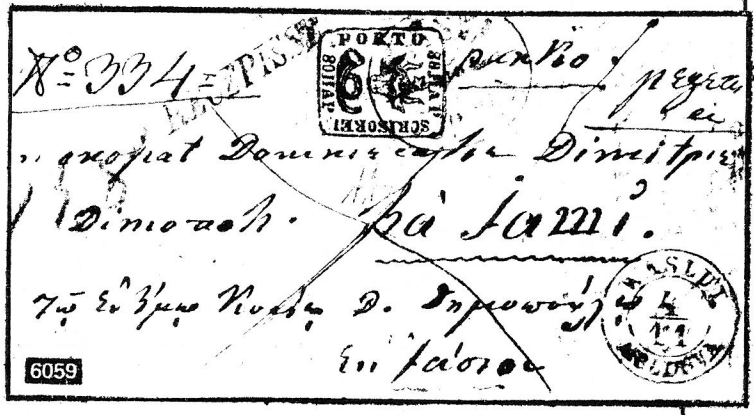

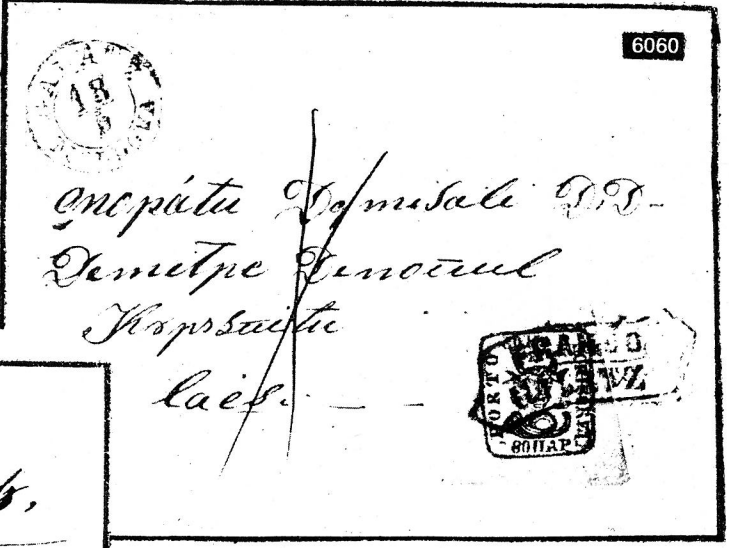

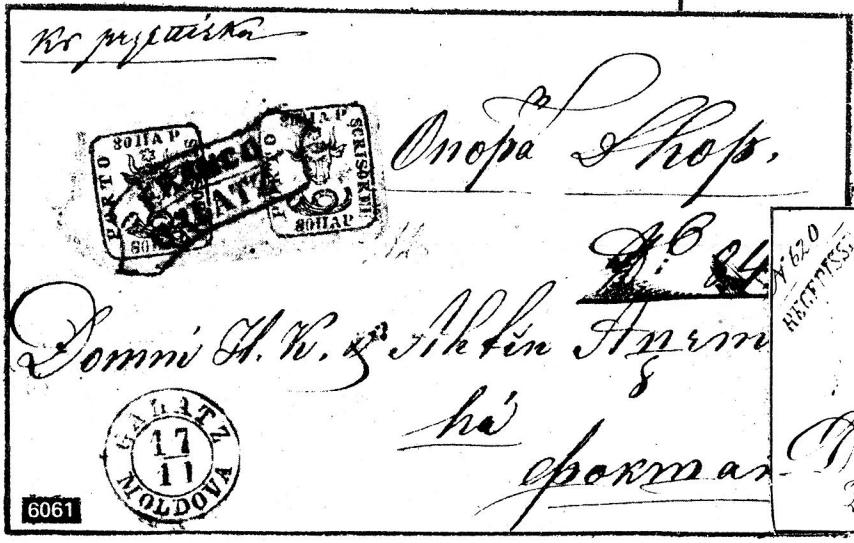

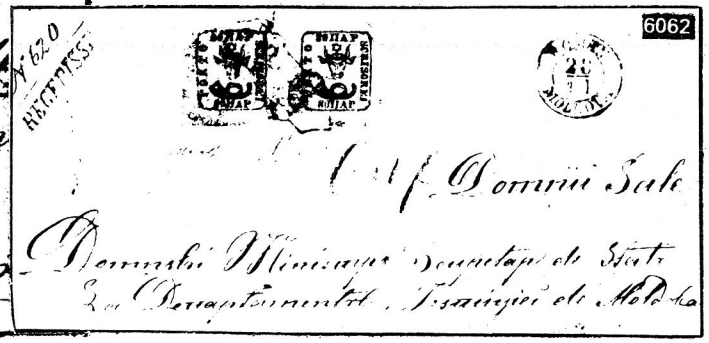

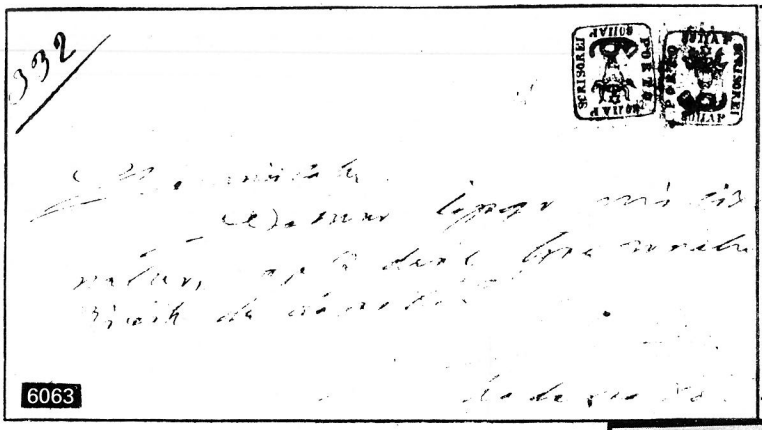
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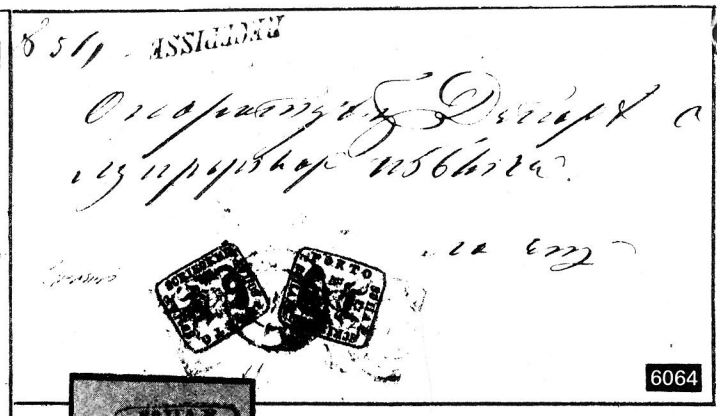
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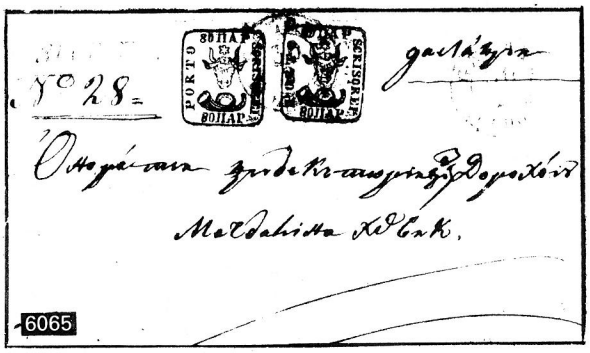
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Revenues and Cinderellas on a Sale Contract

Mircea Teleguț, Bul. Eroilor No. 22, apt. 13, 1900 Timișoara, Romania

The upper left fragment of a sale contract illustrated below shows the many kinds of taxes required to be paid to draw up a simple document. To legalize the transaction, the parties had to affix all sorts of revenue and Cinderella labels. We notice 20, 10 and 2 Lei denomination "Timbru Fiscal" (Revenue Stamp) labels covering the fiscal tax. Next, we see a 5 Lei "Timbru Judiciar" (Judicial Stamp). Furthermore, we find a 2 Lei "Timbru Aviației" (Aviation Stamp). Finally, a green, 20 Lei Cinderella appears. Its top reads "Uniunea Avocaților din Romania" (The Lawyer's Association of Romania), whiie the bottom inscription says "Casa Centrala de Pensiuni" (Central Pension Fund).

This contract must date back to 1942 or shortly thereafter, as at that time fiscal stamps featuring the effigy of the former sovereign, King Carol II, and those with the portrait of the new ruler, King Michael, issued in 1942, were being used simultaneously.

While the state collected the fiscal, judicial and aviation taxes, the 20 Lei paid by affixing the "Uniunea Avocaților din România" label benefitted an officially recognized but private pension fund.

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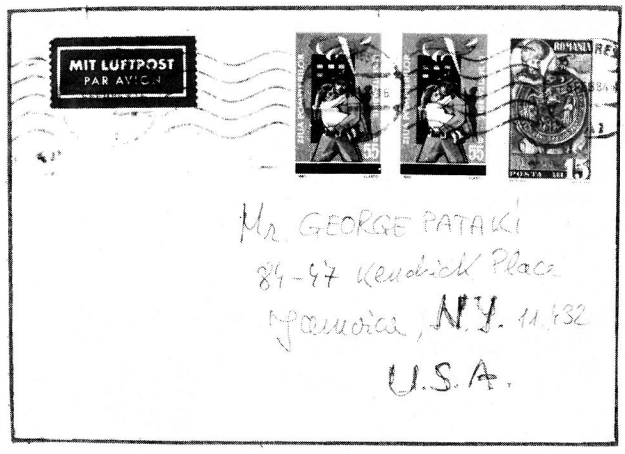
Defrauding the Posts, Part 2

George Pataki

R.P.S. No.3/83 showed how dishonest people defraud the posts by obtaining cheap C.T.O.'s (Cancelled to order), cutting off and discarding the cancelled halves of the two stamps and then uniting the unobliterated portions on cover to form seemingly mint stamps. We must mention that this issue, amongst others, did not pass the Romanian examiners. We cannot tell whether it was the aforementioned note or one or more of the other articles of this issue which caused objection enough to require the retention of the hundreds of copies sent to Romania for free distribution.



Now we describe another practice by the unscrupulous to cheat the posts. The cover illustrated here was postmarked "BUCURESTI 5 FEB. 84"; it bears three stamps, of which the two multicolored 55 Bani denominations listed by Scott as #2970, were issued on August 25, 1980, to mark the "Firemen's Day" (Ziua Pompierilor). The third stamp affixed on this cover is an obsolete item, no longer valid for postal use. Despite its "1944" inscription, is was issued February 1945. Colored Prussian green, its face value is 15 Lei. In a vertical format, it illustrates a seal with a coat of arms and, in its upper left corner, a portrait of Michael the Brave in a round frame. Scott lists it as #562 but does not illustrate it, as this catalogue pictures only two of the 10 stamps which comprise the entire set.

The fraud consists of the use of this demonitized 15 Lei stamp (it lost postal validity nearly 37 years ago) in order to pay the major part of the 16 Lei tariff, a relative stiff amount. Some Americans may find demonetization hard to understand as most postage stamps issued by the U.S. Postal administration after 1861 to date remain valid for postal use. However, the fact is that in Romania on numerous occasions previously issued stamps have been declared void for postal use. For example, when it Nov. 1858 the postal rates were changed and new stamps were issued, those issued only a few months earlier, in July 1858, were declared void. In 1862, when the "Moldavia-Walachia" stamps were issued, the previous-l used "Moldavia" stamps were withdrawn. The "Moldavia-Walachia" were replaced by the "Cuza" stamps, which eventually were replaced by the "Carol I" stamps. Many of the commemoratives had limited postal use, for example the "1906 Exhibition" had postal validity only for 3 days (July 29-31, 1906). The stamps issued by the monarchy were not accepted after the proclamation of the republic (Dec. 30, 1947), except for a very short grace period. Two monetary reforms, in 1947 and 1952, declared void not only previously issued currency, but also postage stamps. The latest demonetization of the Romanian postage stamps took place in April 1964. On Feb. 5, 1964, a stamp was issued (Scott #1614) with the inscription "Poşta Romînă" instead of "R.P. Romînă". After only 3 issues, on April 25, 1964, a new spelling appeared "Poşta Romana" which has been used to date.

Presently, only stamps bearing a "Poşta Română" text are valid for postage. Thus use of any prior stamp constitutes a fraud. We present these facts not to antagonize the Romanian postal authorities and thus endanger the fate of the hundreds of bulletins sent to Romania, but rather to help curb dishonesty. At the same time we feel we are doing a service for philatelists who may have such unusual and scarce covers by giving this explanation.

The sender, knowing that he was doing something illegal, protected himself by not signing his letter. Furthermore, on the back of the back of the cover, where a return address is customarily found, he wrote a fictitious name and address.

ANNOUNCEMENT

OUR MEMBERS ARE REQUESTED TO SEND THEIR BULLETIN SUBSCRIPTION FEES ON TIME.

ROMANIAN PHILATELIC BOOK SALE

Send a self-addressed stamped envelope to the editor for an updated price list of hard-to-find Romanian philatelic books and magazines.

Romanian Parcel Post Cards with Imprinted Fiscal Stamps, Part 2

Emanoil Săvoiu Bucharest, Romania

As an addition to the article "Romanian Parcel Post Cards with Imprinted Stamps" published in R.P.S. No.2/1984, I can now offer photographs of some items this piece mentioned but did not picture.

Fig. 1 shows the first "Buletin de Expediere" card presented in part I, paragraph 3.

Fig. 2 depicts the "Scrisoare de Expeditie" card listed in part II, par. 1a.

Fig. 3 pictures the "Scrisoare de Expeditie" card described in part II, par.2.

Fig. 4 illustrates the "Foaie de Expeditie Postala" card of part III, par.1.

Fig. 5 portrays the "Foaie de Expeditie Postala" card mentioned in part III, par.5.

Fig. 6 show a "Buletin de Expeditie" card not presented in the aforementioned article. Printed on white paper, measuring 200 x 164 mm., it displays a 30 Bani brown fiscal stamp with King Ferdinand's portrait. This stamp matches the one presented as No. 5 in "Revenues & Cinderellas" (published in R.P.S., No.4/1983). The back side features a "CHITANTA" (receipt) and a set of instructions, titled "AVIZ". We have determined that its date of issue is March 14, 1920.

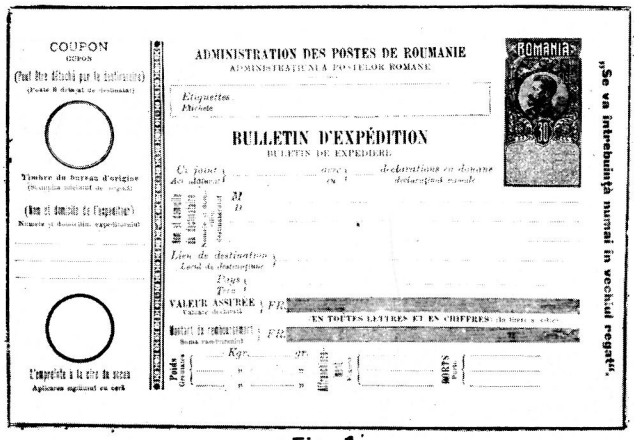


Fig. 1

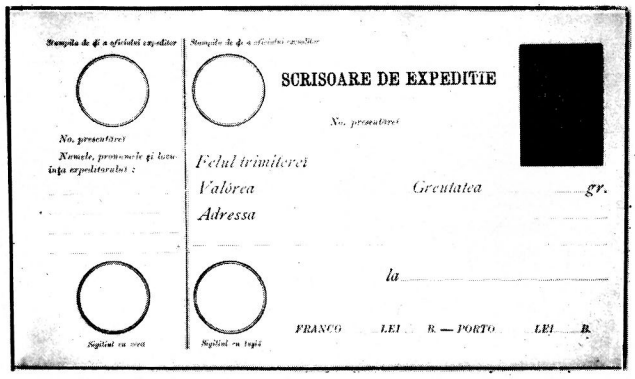


Fig. 2

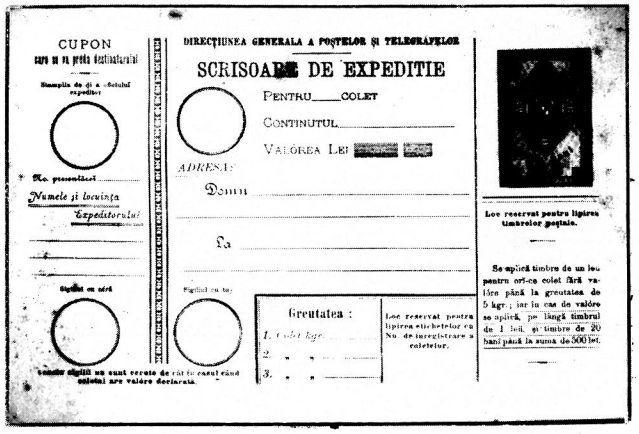

CUPON
DIRECȚIUNEA GENERALA A POȘTELOR ȘI TELEGRAFELOR
SCRISOARE DE EXPEDITIE
PENTRU COLET
CONȚINUTUL
VALOREA LEI
ADRESA:
Domn
La
Greutatea :
Se aplică timbre de un leu pentru orice colet în valóre până la greutatea de 5 kgr.; iar în cas de valóre se aplică, pe lângă timbrul de 1 leu, și timbre de 20 bani până la suma de 500 lei.

Fig. 3

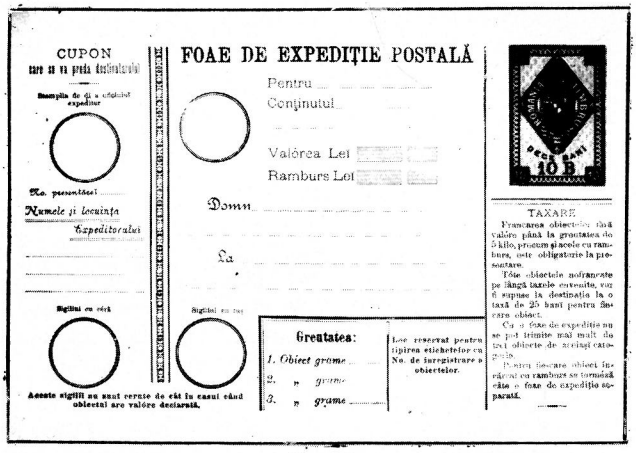


Fig. 4

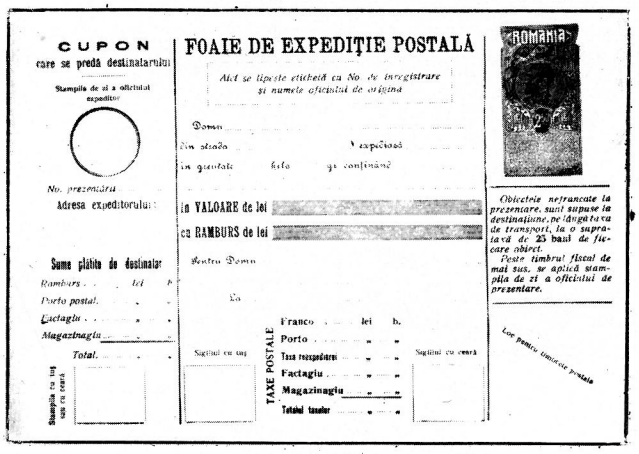


Fig. 5

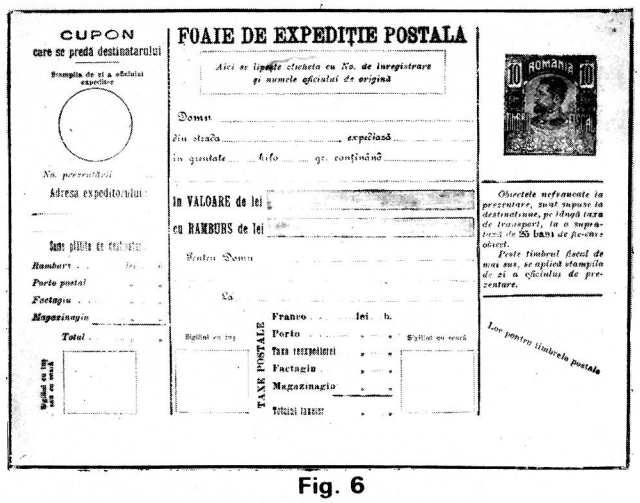


Fig. 6

REVENUES & CINDERELLAS

Addenda

Dr. Eng. George Arghir, Str. Detunata No. 27/17, 3400 Cluj-Napoca, Romania.

I would like to add my findings to the list of revenues published in "Revenues & Cinderellas", R.P.S., No.4/1983:

11. Romania, Ajutorul de iarna, 1942,
500 Lei, green light blue, Unwmkd, 14½x14.

12. Romania, Ajutorul de iarna 1942, Ziua mamei si copilului,
20 Lei, violet brown, Unwmkd., 14½x14½.
100 Lei, brown, Unwmkd., 14x13½.
500 Lei, green blue, Unwmkd., 13¾x14½.

13. Romania, 3 ani activitate 1940 1943, Consiliul de patronaj, Ajutorul de iarnă,
100 Lei, violet, Wmkd. XIII, 13¾x14½.
500 Lei, light brown, Wmkd. XIII, 13¾x14½.

14. Romania, 1943 Consiliul de patronaj,
500 Lei, green blue, Unwmkd., 14x14¼.

16. Ziua desrobirii,
50 Lei, green blue, Wmkd., XIII, 14½x14¼.
100 Lei, blue light gray, Wmkd. XIII, 14¼x14.

17. Romania, Ajutorul de iarna, 1943 Ziua Ostasului,
20 Lei, red violet, Unwkd., 14x14½.

Editor's Note: Without a doubt, more types and denominations exist that those already presented in R.P.S. We invite collectors and researchers to report any they come across. Samples of design hitherto not described should accompany them. We will return them after photographs are taken. Reports of new denominations should refer to the already assigned numbers.

An extensive collection of Romanian philatelic magazine FILATELIA is available through the editor.

◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆

Note to Philatelic Researchers

Researchers working on Romanian philatelic subjects are advised to check what has already been published on the matter. Too often we have seen tedious and hard labors done for nothing after identical work had already been done and published. First check back issues of Romanian Philatelic Studies for both its articles as well as the book and magazine reviews. If this turns up nothing, write a letter to the editor, describing the subject area. This will bring an answer as to whether, to the best of his knowledge, anybody has researched that subject already and published, perhaps in a Romanian magazine (such as Filatelia) or in any of the yearly philatelic almanacs. A copy of that article may help the researcher in his work.

More Cinderellas

Mircea Teleguț, Bul. Eroilor No. 22, apt. 13, 1900 Timișoara, Romania

We present four labels issued during the 1930-45 period to collect funds for various purposes. Local authorities created the first three, while a national organization issued the last one.

1. The 10 Lei green shown measures 26 x 34 mm. Its perforation gauges 13½ and it is on unwatermarked, gummed white paper. Showing a coat-of-arms, its text reads: "Comuna Lenauheim, Timbru Comunal, 10 Lei 10" (Village of Lenauheim, Municipal Stamp, 10 Lei 10). Lenauheim is a large village in Timiș county, populated mostly by Germans. Certain official documents required use of this fiscal stamp.

2. The 4 Lei olive and 10 Lei violet measure 26.5 x 40 mm. Both have a 14 x 14½ perforation, and each is unwatermarked, gummed white paper. They depict Mercury (Hermes), the god of commerce, flying over an anchor and an oil field. The text reads: "Camera de Comert si de Industrie 10 Lei" (Chamber of Commerce and Industry 10 Lei) and on the bottom, in black letters there appears "T-Măgurele" (Turnu Măgurele), the name of the issuing municipality.

3. The 10 Lei multicolored (yellow, red and brown) shown measures 27.5 x 34 mm. Its perforation gauges 10½. It too is on unwatermarked, gummed white paper. It depicts a red cross in front of a symbolic sun, a helmet and the coat-of-arms of the city of Timisoara, where it was issued. The text reads: "Pentru Răniți, Lei 10 Lei" (For the Wounded, Lei 10 Lei). The designer's name, "I.S. Miscovici", a well known local illustrator, figures as the imprint in the lower right corner.

4. The last item shown, a 500 Lei, light green, dark green and red, measures 26.5 x 42 mm. and its perforation gauges 14 x 14¼. This item likewise is on unwatermarked, gummed white paper. With a red cross as its motif, its text reads: "Lei 500, Saptamana Crucii Rosii, Pentru Raniti" (Lei 500, Red Cross Week, For the Wounded). Its high face value points to it having been issued during the inflation years of World War II.

Other denominations possible exist of all the above.

About Stamp Catalogues

R.P.S. No.3/1984 published a comparison between the Romanian listings appearing in different catalogues: Scott, Minkus, Michel, Zumstein and Gibbons. We pointed out their good and bad sides and sent that issue to the editors of these 5. So far only Scott's editor has answered, asking for suggested improvements. We have complied, advising corrections for some captions and replacements of a few poor illustrations.

From our vantage point, it seems that most catalogue editors, being satisfied with their product, do not take interest in making improvements which would require work and expenses. However, it does please that Scott is willing to better their already good catalogue and we look forward to their 1985 edition.

Note to Our Readers

The Romanian Philatelic Club needs publicity to attract more members. This publication's quality depends on the amount of money we can spend on producing it. Thus, we ask our readers to try to get us new subscriptions. A good product, our bulletin informs as well as educates collectors, and even dealers. Many could use more knowledge on the subjects it covers: forgeries and counterfeits, errors and varieties, postal and censor markings, revenues and Cinderellas, postal stationary, postal history, etc. By showing it around you will convince some people to subscribe to it. You will do them, yourself and us a favor.

Major Articles in the Romanian Magazine FILATELIA

No. 7/1982
Early Romanian Postal Forms — *Silviu Dragomir*
Date Cancellations with Post Horn Ornaments — *Dr. Constantin Milu*

No. 8/1982
First Post Offices in Early Romanian Spas and Seasonal Resorts — *Dumitru Paşşalega*
Uncatalogued Romanian Postal Stationary — *Pompiliu Voiculeţ-L.*

No. 9/1982
The Turnu Măgurele Postmarks of the 1862-1920 Period — *Kiriac Dragomir*

No.10/1982
The Daguin Markings in Romanian Marcophily — *Mihail Popovici*

No.11/1982
50th Anniversary of the "EFIRO" Exhibition — *Mihail Popovici*
120th Anniversary of the Establishment of the Post in the Romanian Principalities. — *Dumitru Paşşalega*
A Color Error of a Romanian Stamp — *Leonard Paşcanu*

No.12/1982
Stamped Covers in Postal History Collections — *Gheorghe Cserni*

No.1/1983
Color Keys — *Mihail Popovici*
The 1982 Philatelic Year — *Dr. Nicolae Neagu*

No.2/1983
Mobile Postal Service on the Danube (I) — *Dumitru Paşşalega*
The First Romanian Domestic and International Money Orders — *Mihail Popovici*

No.3/1983
Mobile Postal Service on the Danube (II) — *Dumitru Paşşalega*
Bisects Used in Sibiu — *Gheorghe Cserni* — *Emanoil Munteanu*
Unreported Color Proofs — *Mircea Teleguţ*

No.4/1983
Frame Sizes of the "Wheat Ear" Issue — *Silviu Dragomir*

No.5/1983
The Constanta-Cernavoda "D.B.S.R." stamp — *Emanoil Munteanu*
Irkutsk-Jassy: 1917 — *Dr. Mihail Chiriţescu*

No.6/1983
Readers' Replies to the Magazine's Survey — *Dr. Nicolae Neagu*
Classic Stamps Reused to Defraud the Posts — *Kiriac Dragomir*

No.7/1983
Social Assistance (1920-1928) — *Traian Ataman*
An Unknown Train Marking — *Răzvan Popescu*

No.8/1983
The History of Porumbacu de Jos post office — *Ion Opriş*
Slogan Cancels — *Aurelian Cîrjeu*

No. 9/1983
The "Poşta Sălajului" Overprint — *Iosif Micu*
"Oprit a se Cenzura" Marking — *Silviu Dragomir*
Bisect Frankings — *Mircea Teleguţ*
Counterfeit 1853-1862 Prephilatelic Markings — *Leonard Paşcanu*

No. 10/1983
Predeal, its First Post Office and First Handstamp (1855) — *Kiriac Dragomir*

No. 11/1983
Stamp Printing Shop, Jassy - 1856. — *Kiriac Dragomir*
An Interesting Handstamp — *Constantin Milu*

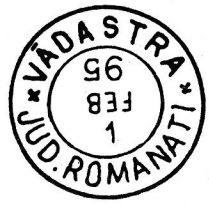
No.12/1983
The Dumitru Paşşalega Collection — *Dr. Nicolae Neagu*

No. 1/1984
Round Postmarks with Indication "Train" — *Călin Marinescu*
Mixt and Unusual Frankings with 1920-28 Definitive Issues — *Gheorghe Cserni*

No. 2/1984
First Pre-Stamp Seals and Markings of the Walachian Posts (1841) — *Kiriac Dragomir*

19th century Romanian cancelmarks

Mihai Popa-Radu,
str. Căpitan N. Negoescu 12,
1000 Rm. Vilcea, Romania



REVIEW by Mark Fromer:

Forgery & Reprint Guide 7-8 and 13

These two booklets continue the fine series published by John Barefoot (P.O.Box 8, York, YO3 7BE, England). The 32 pages of the double issue: No. 7-8, deal with the D.D.S.G. (Donau Dampschiffart Gesellschaft or Danube Steamship Navigation Company) issues, while No. 13's 16 pages treat Romania's 1906 semi-postal (charity) issues as well as the 1913 Silistra franchise issue, which is not listed by Scott. At one time, Scott did include the D.D.S.G. issues at the back of its Austria listings.

These books will interest not only collectors of Romania, but also those who go in for Cinderellas, forgeries and reprints in general. Furthermore, the D.D.S.G. pamphlet also relates to items that might figure in Austrian, Bulgarian, Russian or Ottoman Empire Collections.

The tabular comparisons and accompanying enlargements of the stamps as well as the line drawings of the most salient points of difference make separation of the genuine items from counterfeits almost simple. While R.P.S. (No.4/1983) has featured an article, "The Torcatoarea Semipostals and their Counterfeits", about the first set of semi-postals, and, about the Silistra issue, "The Original and the Counterfeit of the 1913 'Scutit' Stamp" (in R.P.S. No. 3/1979), and, another one about the "D.D.S.G. Parcel Control Labels" (in R.P.S. No.3/1984), John Barefoot's and Andrew Hall's researches add to ours.

The enlarged photographs and the line-drawn illustrations are not of good quality, however; these books sell for low prices. Furthermore, the D.D.S.G. booklet does not give much concrete information on the package control stamps (and may, in fact, repeat some old misunderstandings about these by stating that their perforations gauge 10½, but illustrating two such items, both with perf. 9½).

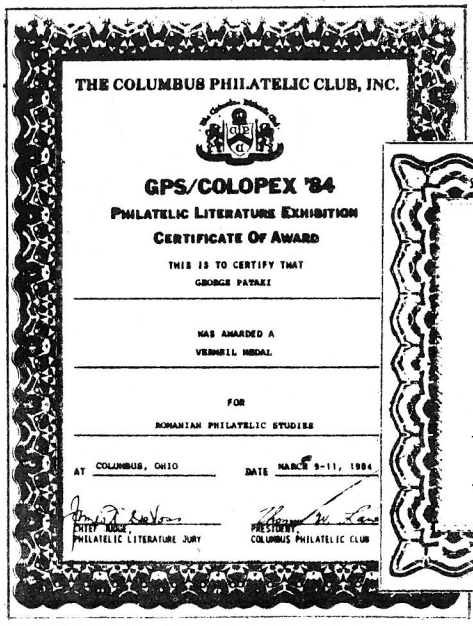
FORGERY & REPRINT GUIDE
13
ROMANIA
1906 Charity Issues
A Guide to the Identification of Forgeries, Forged Overprints, Reprints, Forged or Doubtful Postmarks and other Problem Stamps.
Compiled and published by J.Barefoot Ltd, YORK

They are available from one of our members, Theo. Van Dam at: Postal Covers, P.O. Box 26, Brewster, N.Y. 10509. The D.D.S.G. volume sells for $3.90 while the Romania 1906 Charity Issues pamphlet costs $1.95. Add $1.00 per order to cover postage and handling costs.

New Awards for R.P.S.

COLOPEX '84, took place on March 9-12, 1984, in Columbus, Ohio. The "Philatelic Periodicals" category contained 26 entries. As gold was not awarded, vermeil medals turned out to be the highest distinction granted. One of the four VERMEIL medals went to Romanian Philatelic Studies. Other deserving publications got silver, silver-bronze and bronze medals, as well as diplomas.

At the Literature Fair organized by the CARDINAL SPELLMAN Philatelic Museum, on Apr.28-29, 1984, in Westom, MA, Romanian Philatelic Studies received a VERMEIL medal. This is the third such distinction, this prestigious philatelic institution has given us.


THE COLUMBUS PHILATELIC CLUB, INC.

GPS/COLOPEX '84

PHILATELIC LITERATURE EXHIBITION

CERTIFICATE OF AWARD

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT

GEORGE PATAKI

HAS AWARDED A

VERMEIL MEDAL

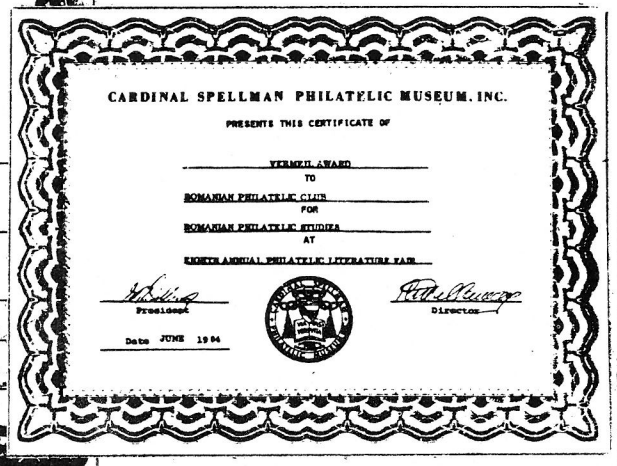
FOR

ROMANIAN PHILATELIC STUDIES

AT COLUMBUS, OHIO DATE MARCH 9-11, 1984

CHIEF JUDGE, PHILATELIC LITERATURE JURY

PRESIDENT, COLUMBUS PHILATELIC CLUB


CARDINAL SPELLMAN PHILATELIC MUSEUM, INC.

PRESENTS THIS CERTIFICATE OF

VERMEIL AWARD

TO

ROMANIAN PHILATELIC CLUB

FOR

ROMANIAN PHILATELIC STUDIES

AT

EIGHTH ANNUAL PHILATELIC LITERATURE FAIR

President

Director

Date JUNE 1984

REVIEW:

Scott 1984, Vol.IV, P-Z

Published by Scott Publishing Co., 3 East 57th Street, New York, N.Y. 10022, this volume contains 956 pages plus Information for Collectors, Catalogue Terms/Colors Translated, Common Design Types, Addenda, For the Record, Index, Number Changes and Advertisements. While its list price is $20.00, its sale price is $15-$17.00.

The Romanian section consists of 68 pages, each with 4 columns. Its last entry in the main body is dated Sept.6, 1982, while the Addenda goes up to May 3, 1983. Catalogue editors do experience difficulties and delays in receiving new issue information from Romania.

Some of the mistakes we found in the 1979 edition (mentioned in "Romanian Listings in 5 Catalogues", R.P.S., No.3/1984) have been corrected. For example, the text following #19-21 shows the correct year of issue 1864 instead of the incorrect 1863. Translation mistakes and incorrect captions still persist. However, Mr. James B. Hatcher, Catalogue Editor Emeritus, has assured us that next year's issue will show corrections of these. Inaccurate illustrations, especially for the early issues, remain there. The 15 Bani Prince Carol, Scott #37, which was replaced with a much better picture, provides a welcome exception.

Good quality paper and well done printing and binding show the care taken in these matters. While this catalogue does give a great deal of information, its prices do not reflect actual market conditions. Considering that 10 long years have passed between the printing of previous specialized catalogue of Romania and its newest counterpart, the reliable yearly editions of Scott catalogues fill in important needs.

ISTORIA POSTALA A SIBILULUI (Postal History of Sibiu) by Emanoil Munteanu, with a large chapter on the HOHE RINNE local posts, is available from the EDITOR for $11.00.

The 1984 Romanian Catalogue

By the time you read these lines, the 1984 Catalogue will have probably made its appearance. It should consist of 2 volumes, with Vol. I to contain issues from 1858 to 1927 and Vol. II to continue chronologically to date. As the previous Romanian Catalogue came out in 1974, the editors had plenty of time to create a masterpiece. We will review it as soon as we can get a copy.

QUARTERLY RESEARCH BULLETIN
$ 10.00/year payable to
ROMANIAN PHILATELIC CLUB
c/o the **EDITOR**

Additional and back copies of this bulletin (Nos. 3, 4 of 1978, 1, 2, 3, 4 of 1979, 1980, 1981, 1982, 1983 and 1984) can be ordered for $2.00/copy.

A Newly Discovered Romanian Color Error?

by George Pataki

Reprinted from The American Philatelist MAY, 1984

The Romanian magazine *Filatelia* (No. 11 of 1982) published Leonard Pașcanu's article "Apariția unei erori de culoare la mărcile românești" ("Appearance of Color Error on Romanian Stamp"). This piece presented an alleged color error of the "40th Anniversary of Carol I's Rule" commemorative 15-ban denomination (Scott No. 180, Minkus No. 236, Gibbons No. 507, Michel and Zumstein No. 191).

This stamp's left side depicts Price Carol as he appeared in 1866, when he became ruler of the Romanian Principalities. The right shows him as he looked forty years later: this time as King Carol I of Romania. As with the other nine values of this set, the 15-ban presents fine engraving, having been produced from copper plates. All values depict various historic moments during Carol's reign.

S. Pompilian, an architect, designed the set. His concepts beat out more than thirty other entries in the special contest held. Bradbury, Wilkinson &·Co. (of London, England) printed these stamps in sheets of 100 on unwatermarked white paper, with a perf gauge of 12.

The center illustrations of all values appear in black, while the ornamental frames, texts, and denominations differ in color for each value.

Quantities printed of the various values differ. According to P. Murea *(Istoricul Timbrelor Poștale Românești, 1858-1938),* the 15-ban came in an edition of two million copies.

Issued in July 1906, the stamps remained postally valid through May 22, 1907.

All catalogues list the 25-ban of this series with its frame in olive green, instead of the blue of the normal version. This well-known item's price levels, both mint and used, come close to or equal those of its non-error counterpart, because the error was printed in a large quantity (500,000 errors out of 2,000,000).

The word "used" is a misnomer for the irregular version, as they were not allowed to do postal duty. All obliterated copies that do exist result from favor canceling. (It is debatable if a denomination printed in a certain color in 500,000 copies can be called an error, while 1,500,000 other copies were printed in a different color, but this is a different story.)

Now, after more than seventy-six years have passed since this set's issuance, we find a report of a "new color error" in the philatelic press. In fact, its author says the new Romanian catalogue will include this "error." The article illustrates a canceled copy of the 15-ban, and states that the frame is *blue* rather than violet.

The author claims that not only did he submit the item in question to the Romanian Philatelists' Association Expertization Commission, but that he also solicited the opinion of the Ministry of Justice Central Crime Laboratory, and that both groups stated that the submitted stamp is genuine and that its blue color is authentic.

Report No. 200 of the latter body, dated June 26, 1982, states the above. To quote this report: "Furthermore, from a technical viewpoint, it is absolutely impossible to obtain a blue color from a violet one, while the reverse is possible, namely to get violet from blue."

Uncovered half (left) of Scott No. 180 exposed to sunlight turned blue, while the covered half (right) remained violet.

"Not so!" says Arthur Hecker, a philatelist who also happens to be a chemistry expert. He explains that whether violet can be turned into blue depends on its ink composition. If the violet dye or pigment consists of a single chemical, the answer would have to be "no," a change to blue would not be possible. However, if red *plus blue* went into a mixture to make violet, the red component could indeed be removed.

During the period when these stamps were printed (and even many years earlier), blue inks that were stable under ultraviolet light exposure were available. However, ultraviolet exposure could bleach out the unstable reds of that period. Thus, a stamp whose violet color results from a mixture of a stable blue and an unstable red dye could easily be turned to blue by removing the red component.

I do not contest that the stamp in question is genuine; however, I doubt that its blue color is original. To check out whether indeed "it is absolutely impossible to obtain a blue color from a violet one," I covered half of such a stamp with black paper. Leaving the other half uncovered, I taped it to a window. After about sixty days (and without too much sun, because the experiment took place in the late autumn), I removed the stamp.

What I got was a half violet and half *blue* stamp. This was as predicted by Arthur Hecker as well as by experts of the Philatelic Foundation (Peter Robertson) and Friedl Expert Committee (Alex Rendon), both of New York City. Had I used an ultraviolet lamp or a Fadometer (containing such a U.V. source and used in the paint, plastic, and textile industries to accelerate aging), the same result would have been obtained in a matter of hours.

I accept the possibility that both the Romanian Philatelists' Association Expertization Commission and the Ministry of Justice Central Crime Laboratory were misled by appearances. However, surely enough knowledgeable philatelists reside in Romania (even if they do not belong to the aforementioned groups) to be able to have established the facts before these claims were presented in a prestigious philatelic publication.

As this stamp was printed in sheets of 100, we have to wonder where the other ninety-nine "valuable" stamps are. The author also mentions the finding of a blue color error of the normally violet "25th Anniversary of the Kingdom" 15-ban stamp (Scott No. 190). It seems that somebody, encouraged by his first success in creating "errors," is extending his activities.

We should be especially careful not to rush the inclusion of such listings in catalogues, and thereby giving legitimacy to these dubious claims. TAP

FILATELIA
Monthly, Romanian Philatelic Magazine
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P.O. Box 1.136-1.137, Bucharest, Romania.

COMMENTS on published articles can be sent directly to the authors. **INQUIRIES** regarding the **ROMANIAN PHILATELIC CLUB** or the **ROMANIAN PHILATELIC STUDIES** can be sent to the editor.

Notice to the Romanian Philatelic Clubs

County chapters of the Philatelists' Association of Romania (Filialele Judetene A.F.R.) which are missing any issues of the Romanian Philatelic Studies, should send a note to the editor indicating which ones are required. They will receive free copies for their libraries.

'Romanian Philatelic Studies' strictly a research bulletin

Reprinted from
LINN'S STAMP NEWS
JUNE 4, 1984

By George Pataki
Romanian Philatelic Club

The Romanian Philatelic Club of New York publishes *Romanian Philatelic Studies*, which I edit.

Perhaps discussing its background will help other club bulletin editors or potential editors. I can testify that such a service is a pleasant extension of the hobby.

While the club was formed in 1975, its first publication did not appear until 1977. The first calendar year consisted of three quarterly issues.

The title resulted from a triviality; someone had given me a half-sheet of large, rub-on letters to make it up.

Due to the limited number of letters available, after spelling out "Romanian Philatelic," I did not have enough of the right ones for the word "Bulletin." I had to settle for "Studies."

However, as it turned out, the latter best expresses the content and spirit of our product.

The first six issues were typewritten, then reproduced by one of our members on a photocopier at his place of work.

He made enough for our members. When more were needed, he photocopied additional ones. Each of the first five issues contained 16-18 pages.

The articles our English-speaking researchers submitted presented few problems, but the Romanian language pieces needed to be translated.

I came from Romania, so I could translate, but my English is not perfect, and my grammar and spelling had to be proofread.

Commencing in 1978, we typeset the text electronically and printed by photo offset. While the bulletins kept the same 8½- by 11-inch size, white coated paper replaced ordinary bond.

The first "improved" issue's 12 pages contained more material than a typewritten 18-page issue. Eventually we increased the number of pages to 20.

The first photo offset issue, produced in New York, was quite expensive. The Nez Perce Indians of Idaho printed the next 13 issues, up to the last issue of 1982.

While the reservation business lowered our printing costs, we found the care and workmanship not entirely satisfactory. Typesetting and printing functions returned to New York City and have remained there.

The bulletin has been well received by collectors and researchers specializing in Romania. We claim about 120 paying subscribers worldwide.

We print 1,000 copies per issue and thus have enough to send free copies to libraries, clubs, philatelic writers and magazines (hoping the latter will give us publicity).

About 200 copies of each issue are sent to Romania for free distribution. These go to all 41 country philatelic clubs and to leading philatelists.

Unfortunately, many do not reach their destinations because the Romanian mail examiners object to certain articles.

For publicity, we have sent our journal to various national and international philatelic literature competitions and have received several gold and vermeil medals.

ROMANIAN PHILATELIC STUDIES
Vol. VII, No. 2, 1983
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A.P.S. Affiliate No. 88
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Soon after the dawn of philately, counterfeits began to be produced. They have been reported during almost all periods, originating from almost all countries of the globe.
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A typical issue of *Romanian Philatelic Studies* contains research articles from the United States and abroad.

We have a truly international group of contributing authors. Articles come from the United States, Romania, England, Israel and many European countries.

When we find good material in another publication, we reprint it with the permission of the author and publisher.

When we receive a good article which might be of interest to other than Romanian specialists, we offer it to other publications, such as *The American Philatelist*. After they publish it, we reprint it.

Reprinting also saves costly typesetting fees.

To encourage reprinting of our articles, every issue displays a blank release reading: "Permission is granted to reproduce any article published in this bulletin if credit is given to the author and to *Romanian Philatelic Studies*."

Strictly a study bulletin without any paid advertisements, the publication's only income is members' dues.

These, however, cover only about one-third of the expenses of typesetting, photograph preparation, offset printing and mailing. I cover the balance, about $450 every three months.

Many club bulletins exist, new ones constantly appear, and many go under after a while. Those which survive crystallize the shapes of their editors' visions. They cater to their subscribers' requirements.

Most important, they are limited by financial resources. Those contemplating editing or publishing a bulletin should clearly understand that although it requires a lot of work and money, it can be done.

Membership in the club, which includes a journal subscription, is $10 per year, payable to myself at 84-47 Kendrick Place, Jamaica Estates, N.Y. 11432. Those wishing to receive a sample copy should also write. ■

GABRIEL SASSOWER - Fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society of G. B.

The Nov. 3, 1983 council meeting of the Royal Philatelic Society of Great Britain, elected Gabriel Sassower, a member of the Romanian Philatelic Club, as a Fellow of the Society. Mr. Sassower, an architect living in London, England, originates from Arad, Romania. A knowledgeable researcher of Romanian postal history, he has published his studies in The London Philatelist, Romanian Philatelic Studies, the Austria bulletin, etc. The Romanian Philatelic Club congratulates Mr. Sassower on this memorable occasion. We hope to publish more of his valuable papers in the near future.

Note to Our Readers in Romania

It has come to our attention that a large number of bulletins sent for free distribution to philatelic libraries and individual philatelists were misappropriated by Silviu Dragomir of Bucharest. Instead of giving or sending them to the proper addresses, Dragomir diverted and even sold, some issues. Consequently, many clubs and philatelists do not have complete collections. Those who wish to receive such missing bulletins should send the editor a note.

Romanian Philatelic Studies
QUARTERLY RESEARCH BULLETIN
$10.00/year payable to
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c/o the EDITOR

Censor Markings used in Walachia and Moldavia, 1917-19

Silviu Dragomir, Str. Biserica Popa Chitu No. 17, 70268 Bucharest, Romania

The following censor markings were applied only in the localities where the correspondence they appear on was posted. They were used during World War I in Walachia and Moldavia.

As with the previously presented censor markings (Military Censor Markings, R.P.S., Nos.3/1982, 1/1983, 1/1984), for identification I used a "Z-305.00.0" type code where "Z" represents the censor markings and "305" denotes this particular group; the second group of numerals pinpoints the cities which used these markings while the third group of numbers (and sometimes letters) shows what is on the markings, and should there be more than one censor marking with the same number used in the same locality, a fourth group of numerals was used to differentiate them. The last column gives the date(s) the markings were found to have been used.

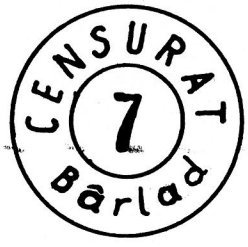
Z-305.01.4	CENZURAT/4/Bârlad	(March 3, 1918)
Z-305.01.5	CENSURAT/5/Bârlad	(Jan. 12, 1918)
Z-305.01.7.01	CENSURAT/7/Bârlad	Aug.16-Sept.11, 1917)
Z-305.01.7.02	CENSURAT/7/Bârlad	(Dec. 10, 1917)
Z-305.01.9	CENZURAT/9/Bârlad	? ? ? ? ?
Z-305.02.2	CENSURAT/2/Botoşani	(Nov. 19, 1917)
Z-305.02.5	CENSURAT/5/Botoşani	(Nov. 16, 1917)
Z-305.03.B4	CENZURAT/B4/Bucureşti	(Jan. 2, 1919)
Z-305.03.C2	CENZURAT/C2/Bucureşti	(Jan. 15, 1919)
Z-305.03.C5.	CENZURAT/C5/Bucureşti	(Dec. 12, 1918)
Z-305.04.1	CENSURAT/1/Galaţi	(Apr. 26, 1918)
Z-305.04.3	CENSURAT/3/Galaţi	(Nov. 12, 1917)
Z-305.04.5	CENSURAT/5/Galaţi	Dec. 9, 1917)
Z-305.04.6	CENSURAT/6/Galaţi	(May 20, 1918)
Z-305.04.10	CENSURAT/10/Galaţi	(May 6-May 18, 1918)
Z-305.05.2	CENSURAT/2/Roman	(Jan. 18, 1918)
Z-305.06.6	CENSURAT/6/Tecuci	(Sept. 13, 1917)
Z-305.07.8	CENZURAT/8/Vaslui	(Apr. 9, 1918)

Undoubtedly, more of these type of censor markings exist and they have to be identified and included in the list.

Z-305.01.4

Z-305.01.5

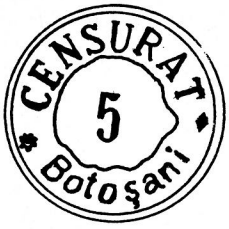
Z-305.01.7.01



Z-305.01.7.02

Z-305.01.9

Z-305.02.2



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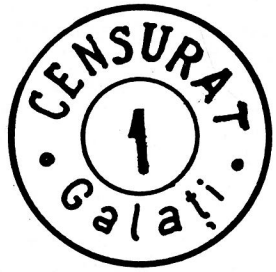

Z-305.04.1

Z-305.04.3

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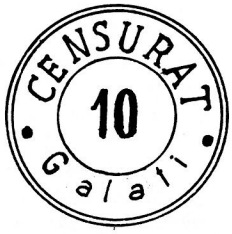
Z-305.04.6



Z-305.04.10

Z-305.05.2

Z-305.06.6

Z-305.07.8

BACK ISSUES

The Romanian Philatelic Club still has some back issues. These feature interesting and useful studies. Members who have joined the club in the recent years but missed the older issues may order those listed on the front page. They will learn the latest research discoveries in the many fields of Romanian philately.

Send your order to the editor, making your check payable to the Romanian Philatelic Club.

The "First" Romanian Issues

While most of the countries have one first issue, Romania can claim three "first" issues. The first one consists of the Moldavia stamps (Scott #1-4) issued on July 15, 1858. The second, the Moldavia-Walachia stamps (Scott #11-18), also known as the United Principalities issues, appeared on June 26, 1862. Scott lists the third ones as the first under the "Romania" heading (#22-27). They portray Prince Cuza, ruler of the United Principalities, and for the first time show the inscription "Posta Romana".

In Future Issues:

The Timişoara Provisional Issue of 1919;
A Mysterious Transnistria Cover;
Overprint Errors on Scott #C39;
Translation of Colors - Reprinted from the 1974 Romanian Catalogue;
Revenues & Cinderellas;
Excerpts from Auction Catalogues;
The "Occupation française" issue of 1919;
Romanian Stamps with Incorrect Texts or Designs.

Incomplete Perforations and Printing Flaws on the "Unissued Ferdinand" Definitives.

Dr. Eng. Marcel Sapira, Sos. Oltenitei No. 73, bl.5, et. II, apt. 10, 75504 Bucharest, Romania

In 1917, the Romanian government ordered stamps to be printed in Russia. (Romanian Philatelic Studies No.3/1979 presented "Romanian Stamps Printed in Russia" by Barbu Popescu and No.3/1980 featured "More on Romanian Stamps Printed in Russia" by the late Ilie C. Demetrescu). The printers delivered part of the order, namely some of the 10, 25, 35, 40 and 50 Bani denominations, but these were not issued by the Romanian postal administration because the entire order had not been received the Russian revolution had made it impossible. At a later date, the rest of the stamps, the 5 Bani, 1 and 2 Lei denominations, as well as the previously delivered denominations, showed up on the philatelic market. (The set also includes 3 postal tax stamps and one postage due/postal tax stamp.

The "Unissued Ferdinand" stamps are known perforate and imperforate. The imperforates probably owe their existence to the fact that when the order could not be finished, most of the sheets left the printing plant imperforate. Some, however, came to be delivered in a partially completed state.

Fig. 1

Fig.1 illustrates a 25 Bani stamp imperforate at right, evidently coming from a right sheet margin. Fig.2 shows a 40 Bani stamp imperforate both at left and bottom, thus from the lower left corner of a sheet. (The "star in circle" marking on the stamp corner is my personal marking). Fig.3 shows a strip of 3 stamps, imperforate on the bottom and the first stamp also imperforate on the left. This item obviously originates from the lower left corner of a sheet. These 3 stamps also display a double perforation at top, another perforation "error".

Fig. 2

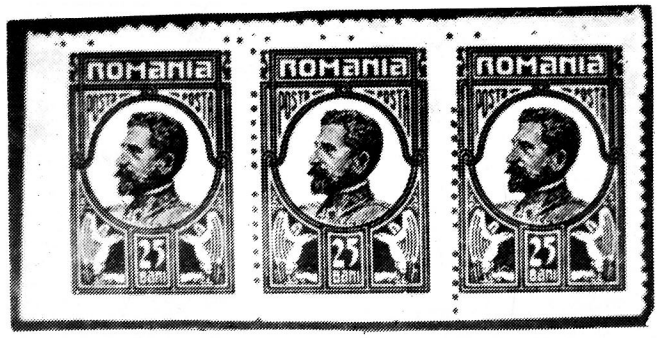


Fig. 3

Fig. 4

Fig.4 pictures two different 25 Bani stamps, both imperforate and both exhibiting printing flaws above the King's ear in the form of a colored dot in the center of a white spot, about 2mm. in diameter. While it exists on a number of such stamps, we could not establish their sheet position nor whether all stamps in any particular field exhibit this flaw or only some of them. Besides the question of constancy, it remains to be established whether other denominations show the same flaw. Considering that all definitives bear the same design, it is possible they were printed using the same transfers, the various denominations being added by a second process.

ANNOUNCEMENT

OUR MEMBERS ARE REQUESTED TO SEND THEIR BULLETIN SUBSCRIPTION FEES ON TIME. DUE TO THE INCREASE IN OUR EXPENSES WE CANNOT SEND FOLLOW UP NOTICES.

ROMANIAN PHILATELIC BOOK SALE

Send a self-addressed stamped envelope to the editor for an updated price list of hard-to-find Romanian philatelic books and magazines.

An extensive collection of Romanian philatelic magazine FILATELIA is available through the editor.

Articles for the bulletin

The readers are invited to send the editor original research articles. Short notes or lengthy studies are equally welcome. Good illustrations are important. Articles sent in Romanian language will be translated by the editor.

INQUIRIES regarding the **ROMANIAN PHILATELIC CLUB** or the **ROMANIAN PHILATELIC STUDIES** can be sent to the editor

Additional and back copies of this bulletin can be ordered for $2.00/copy.

Watermarks of Romanian Stamps

Reprinted from the 1974 Romanian Catalogue

Watermarks are illustrated as seen from the face side of the stamp. Watermarks are produced by pressure on the wet pulp during paper manufacture.

WATERMARK nr. I („SMALL COAT OF ARMS") is introduced with the issue of 14.10.1889 („EAGLES") and is not a proper watermark, as it was obtained by impression after paper manufacture, giving an embossing effect. Normally, this would-be watermark appears on each stamp in position 1 and very seldom in any other of the 3 possible positions: Recto, on its side either recto or verso (fig. 4). The watermark represents the Coat of Arms of Romania: Bull's Head for Moldavia, Eagle for Wallachia, Dolphins for Dobrudja and Lion for Little Wallachia.

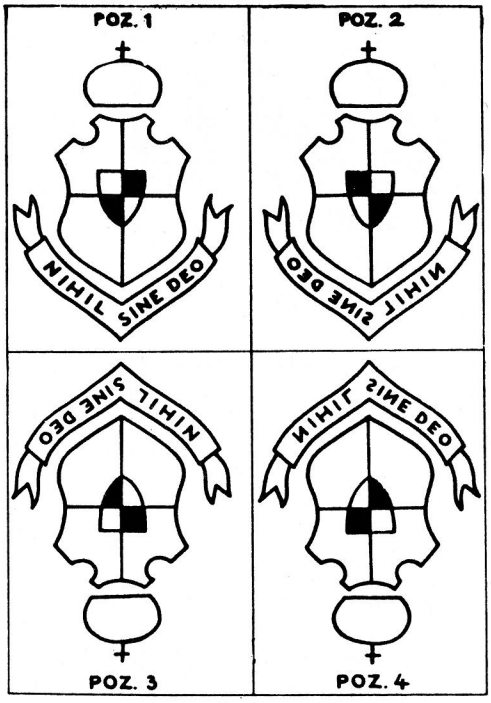


Fig. 4

WATERMARK nr. II („Small" PR) is first introduced in 1893 on the unissued stamps known as „WHEAT EAR". The wmk. is 11 1/2 mm high, 15 1/2 mm wide, with 4 1/2 mm clearance between the letters. The thickness of the line is 3/4 mm. The loop of P is 6 mm high, that of R only 4 1/2mm (Fig. 5).

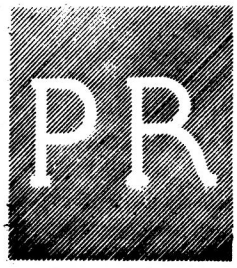


Fig. 5

WATERMARK nr. III („Medium" PR) used in 1897. *Height 12 1/2 mm;* width 14 mm; clearance between letters 4 mm; thickness of line 1/2 mm; loop of P 7 mm; loop of R 5 1/2 mm (Fig. 6).

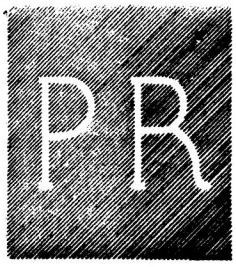


Fig. 6

WATERMARK nr. IV („Large" PR) used in 1895 and 1898. *Height 14 mm;* width 14 mm; clearance between letters 3 1/2 mm; thickness of line 3/4 mm; loop of P 7 1/2 mm; loop of R 6 1/2 mm (Fig. 7).

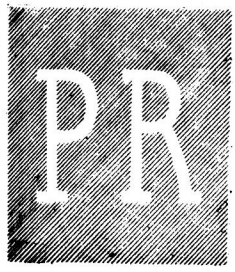


Fig. 7

WATERMARK nr. V („Reversed" PR), used in 1898, the tallest of all PR wmks. It is found in position 7 („reversed"). *Height 14 1/2 mm;* width 13 1/2 mm; clearance between letters 3 1/2 mm; thickness of line 3/4 mm; loops formed by two parallel vertical lines, joined at corners, sometimes only one letter thus, the second being round: Height of loop in P 7 1/2 mm; loop of R 7 mm (Fig. 8).

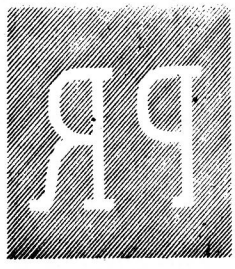


Fig. 8

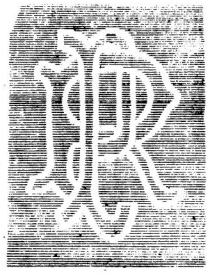


Fig. 12

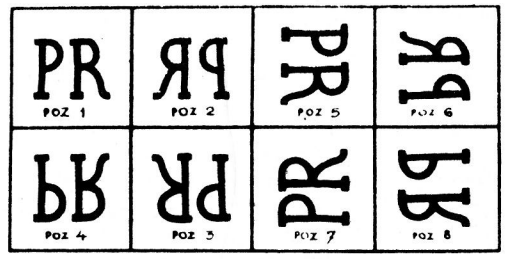


Fig. 9

NOTE. All „PR" watermarks (II—V) can be found in 8 positons, as sketched in Fig. 9.

WATERMARK nr. VI („LARGE COAT OF ARMS") can be found only on the „WHEAT EAR" issue of July 1900. The wmk. is impressed on an area of about 112 × 138 mm, which covers a block of 25 stamps. This wmk. appears six times in a sheet of 150 stamps (10 rows of 15 stamps each) and is known in two positions: Right way up and head downwards (Fig. 10).

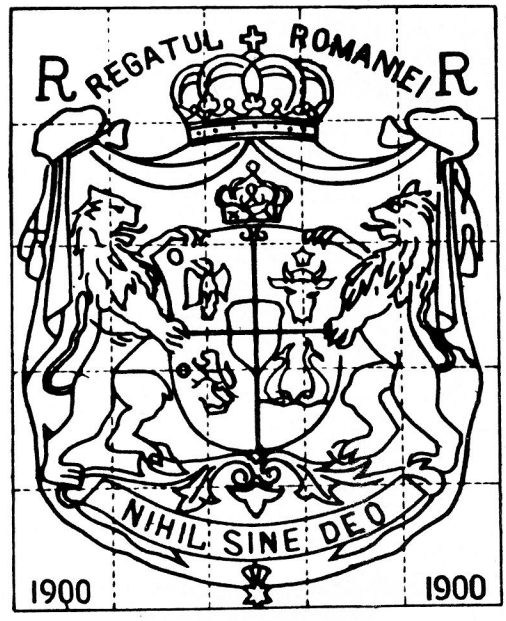


Fig. 10

WATERMARK nr. VII („JOHANNOT") this is the wmk. of the French supplier of the actual paper, which is white, wove and carries along one of its vertical sides the name: JOHANNOT et Cie. ANNONAY, in straight letters 7 1/2 mm high, the smaller letters being only 5 or 4 mm. The distance between words is 5 mm, between letters 1 1/2 mm. The fact that the stamps of one only of the marginal rows can show this watermark — in position 5 or 7 — bestows them a flavour of „rarities". This wmk. appeared in July—August 1900 (Fig. 11).

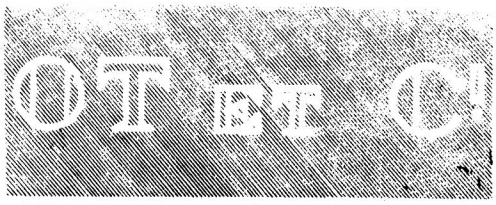


Fig. 11

WATERMARK nr. VIII (PR monogram) appeared in 1911 on Postage-Due stamps (Fig. 12).

WATERMARK nrs. IX and IXa are found on the Hungarian stamps used with the Cluj and Oradea overprint in 1919.

WATERMARK nr. X (One horizontal line) appears on some of the „Wheat Ear" and, later „King Ferdinand" stamps (Fig. 13).

WATERMARK nr, XI (Wavy Lines) appears in 1922 and is known both in horizontal and vertical positions (Fig. 14).

WATERMARK nr. XII (PTT) is introduced in 1930 and is known in 8 positions (Fig. 15).

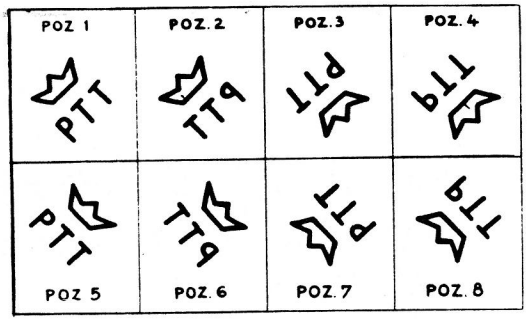


Fig. 15

(Fig. 16)

WATERMARK nr. XIII (CC)$_{\wedge}$ is introduced in 1931 and is known in 4 positions (Fig. 17)

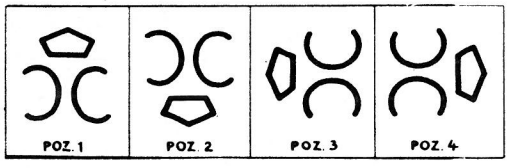


Fig. 17

WATERMARK nr, XIV (MM) appeared in 1943 and due to its perfect symmetry is known in one position only (Fig. 18).

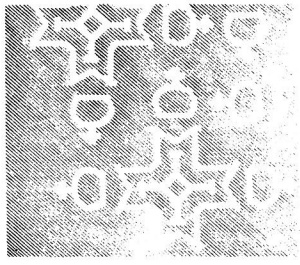


Fig. 18

WATERMARK nr. XV (RPR) is introduced in 1948. It presents a higher luminosity. Of the 3 letters the first 2 are linked while the third is on its own. The group is well proportioned, without any disalignment. It is 17 mm high (Fig. 19).

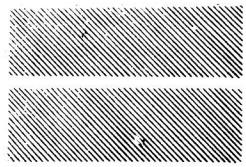


Fig. 13

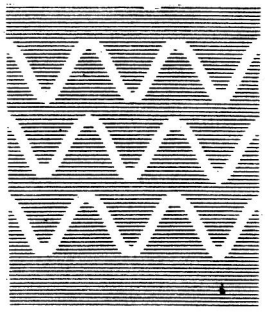


Fig. 14

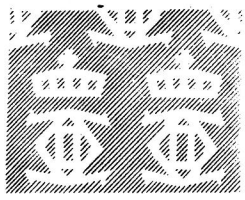


Fig. 16

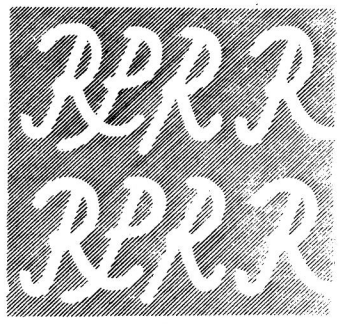


Fig. 19

WATERMARK nr. XVI (RPR) is adopted in 1955. It is darker in comparison to the background of the paper, all letters are linked and upright. The height of the letters is 15 mm (Fig. 20).

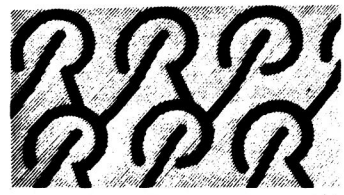


Fig. 20

WATERMARK nr. XVII (RPR) is introduced in 1957. It is darker than the paper. All letters are linked and sloped diagonally. Height of letters is 13 mm (Fig. 21).

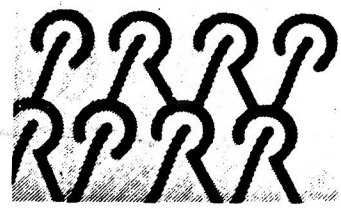


Fig. 21

WATERMARK nr. XVIII (RPR) appears in 1957, darker than the paper, with 13 mm high letters linked.

The R.P.R. wmks. (XV—XVIII) can be found in the same 8 positions as the PR wmks. (Fig. 5), which serve as model for all positions (Fig. 22).

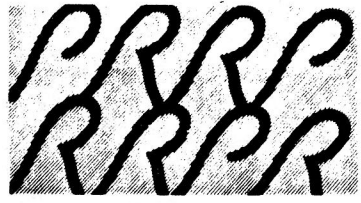


Fig. 22

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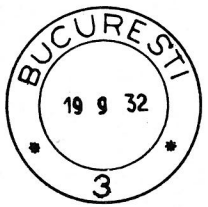

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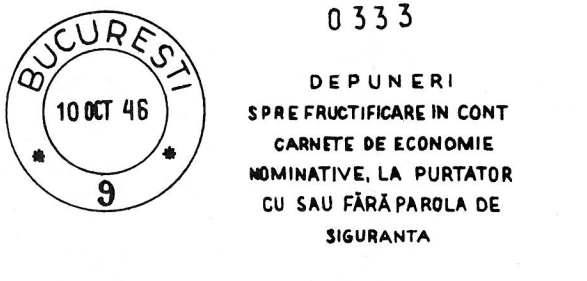

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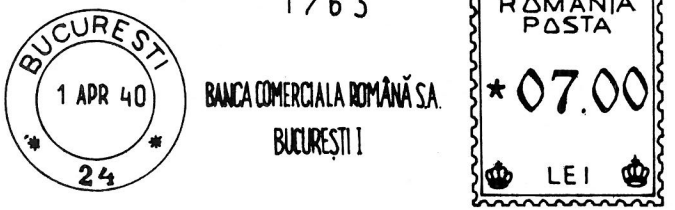

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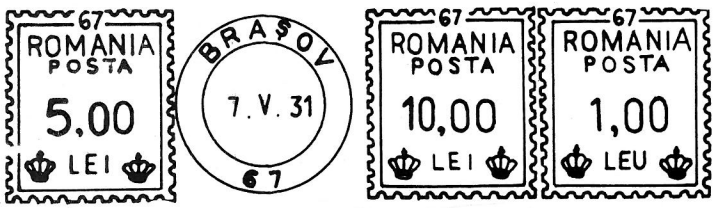

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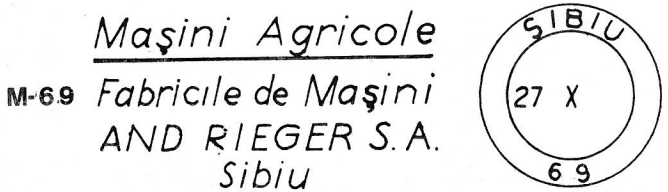

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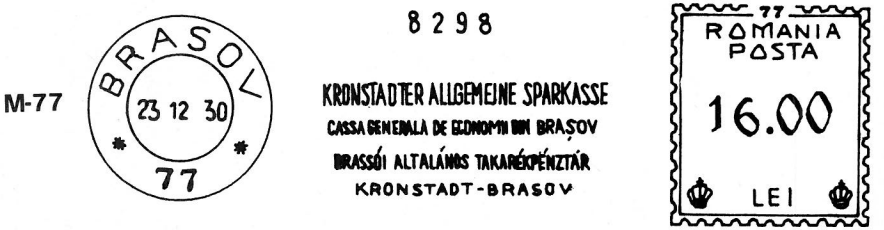

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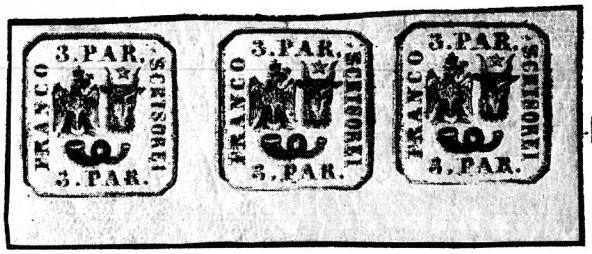
6070	3 P. ockeroliv, sehr schöner Dreier-Streifen in seltener Farbnuance. Im Zwischenraum kleine Gummiabbröckelung, sonst gut.	8 Ix	*	200.–
6071	3 P. gelborange, einwandfrei erhalten.	8 Ix		100.–
6072	3 P. ockergelb, sehr schönes Paar mit attraktiven blauen Stempeln, gez. Diena.	8 Ix		400.–
6073	3 P. gelblichocker, schöner Dreier-Streifen mit blauen Stempeln, Papier wie üblich porös.	8 Ix		500.–
6074	3 P. orangegelb, tadelloser Dreier-Streifen, lose auf Briefstück.	8 Ix	△	500.–
6075	3 P. gelb, prächtiges Exemplar aus der linken oberen Bogenecke auf sehr schöner Drucksache! Atteste Heimbüchler und R.P.S. (Y. 11'000.–)	8 Ix	⊠	1500.–
6076	3 P. gelborange, prächtiger Vierer-Streifen auf Streifband, sehr frisch und tadellos erhalten. Vermutlich befand sich die Schleife auf einer Zeitung oder Drucksache, welche aber verloren gegangen sind. Sehr seltener Beleg mit Liebhaberwert! Attest Heimbüchler.	8 Ix	⊠	1500.–
6077	3 P. ockergelb, schönes und tadelloses Paar.	8 Iz	*	400.–
6078	3 P. gelbocker, gestreiftes Papier, sehr frisch und sauber gestempelt, ausser leichter Bugspur gut erhalten. Seltene Marke! Gez. Zoscsak.	8 Iz		1000.–
6079	6 P. rot, Bogen zu 32 Marken mit 8 Kehrdruck-Paaren.	9 IxK	**/*	1000.–
6080	6 P. rot, frisch und sehr schön auf Briefstück.	9 Ixa	△	200.–
6081	6 P. rot, Einzelstück und Briefstück in ausgesuchter Qualität.	9 Ixa	⊙△	200.–
6082	6 P. ziegelrot, tadelloser Dreier-Streifen auf Briefstück.	9 Ixa	△	400.–
6083	6 P. ziegelrot, Vierer-Streifen und Einzelstück auf Brief in hervorragender Erhaltung! Gez. Diena.	9 Ixa	⊠	1500.–
6084	6 P. ziegelrot, schöner Fünfer-Streifen auf Brief, überdurchschnittlich gute Erhaltung und selten!	9 Ixa	⊠	1500.–
6085	6 P. ziegelrot, Fünfer-Streifen auf Briefteil in sehr guter Erhaltung (im Zwischenraum der 2. und 3. Marke senkrechter Bugspur), gez. Diena.	9 Ix	⊠	1500.–
6086	6 P. rot, Fünfer-Streifen auf Brief von Bucarest nach Galatz. Obwohl der Streifen kleinere Mängel aufweist, ein seltener Beleg.	9 Ixa	⊠	1000.–
6087	6 P. rot, breitrandig und sehr sauber.	9 Ixb		150.–
6088	6 P. karmin, breitrandiger und sehr schöner Dreier-Streifen, sehr frisch.	9 Ixb		500.–
6089	6 P. dunkelrot, sehr schönes und frisches Kehrdruck-Paar.	9 IxbK	*	150.–
6090	6 P. karminrot, Bogen zu 32 Marken mit 8 Kehrdruck-Paaren!	9 IxbK	**/*	1000.–
6091	6 P. ziegelrot, sehr breitrandig und sauber gestempelt, gez. Diena.	9 Iz		200.–
6092	6 P. karmin, tadelloses Exemplar, gez. Bloch.	9 Iz		200.–
6093	6 P. ziegelrot, sehr schönes Paar in tadelloser Erhaltung.	9 Iz		400.–
6094	6 P. dunkelziegelrot, sehr seltener Fünfer-Streifen auf gestreiftem Papier! Unten im Rand kleine Risschen, sonst tadellos. Signiert A.Diena. Ex-Sammlung Rotschild.	9 Iz		1500.–
6095	6 P. ziegelrot, Viererblock mit 2 Kehrdruck-Paaren auf gestreiftem Papier, hervorragend erhalten! Michel ohne Preis, Yvert 20'000.–	9 IzK	**/*	1500.–
6096	30 P. blau, sehr frisches Paar auf Briefteil, schön und klar entwertet.	10 Ix	⊠	400.–
6097	30 P. blau, Doppeldruck, ungebraucht ohne Gummi, gez. Zosczak.	10 IxDD	(*)	200.–
6098	30 P. blau, markanter Doppeldruck, sehr sauber gestempelt und tadellos, gez. Zosczak.	10 IxDD		500.–
6099	30 P. blau, breitrandiges und schönes Paar.	10 Iz	*	100.–
6100	30 P. blau, sehr schönes Kehrdruck-Paar.	10 IzK	*	150.–
6101	30 P. blau, schöner und frischer Sechserblock mit 2 Kehrdruck-Paaren.	10 IzK	*	200.–
6102	30 P. blau, tadellos und sehr sauber auf Brief von Bucarest.	10 Iz	⊠	200.–
6103	30 P. hell- bis dunkelblau, prachtvolles Lot von 29 Marken, dabei Paare und 3 Dreier-Streifen, hübsche Briefstücke und 5 schöne Briefe!	10 Iw,x,z	⊙△⊠	1000.–
6104	3 P. gelborange, breitrandig und sehr sauber, von bester Qualität. Atteste Heimbüchler und R.P.S.	8 II		1500.–
6105	Vollständige Bogen zu jeweils 40 Marken mit 8 Kehrdrucken der 3 P., 6 P. und 30 Parale, meist sehr gute Erhaltung.	8-10 II K	**/*	1500.–
6106	30 P. blau, beidseitig bedruckter Original-Bogen zu 40 Marken mit 8 Kehrdruck-Paaren, ausserordentlich selten! Michel nicht gelistet, Yvert 1'350.– pro Marke, unter Besücksichtigung der Kehrdruck-Paare dürfte der Katalogwert nach Yvert über 80'000.– betragen.	10 II	**/*	4000.–
6107	30 P. blau, sehr schönes Paar.	10 II		100.–
6108	30 P. blau, frischer und sauberer Fünfer-Streifen. Im Zwischenraum der 2. und 3. Marke senkrechte Faltspur, sonst gut.	10 II		500.–
6109	30 P. blau, frisch und tadellos auf sehr schönem Brief! (Y. 1'350.–)	10 II	⊠	300.–
6110	30 P. hellblau, tadellos und sauber auf Recepisse. (Y. 1'350.–)	10 II	⊠	200.–
6111	30 P. blau, sehr sauber gestempeltes Kehrdruck-Paar auf schönem Briefstück! Gez. Zosczak.	10 IIbK	△	1000.–
6112	Nicht verausgabte Werte 1864: 2 P. im 14er-Block, 5 P. und 20 P. in 16er-Blöcken. Gummierung der 20 P. teils leicht stockig.	I-III	**	100.–



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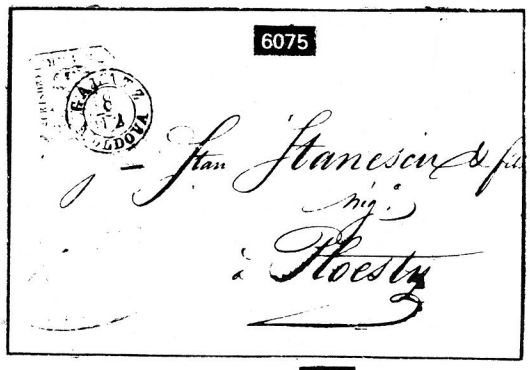

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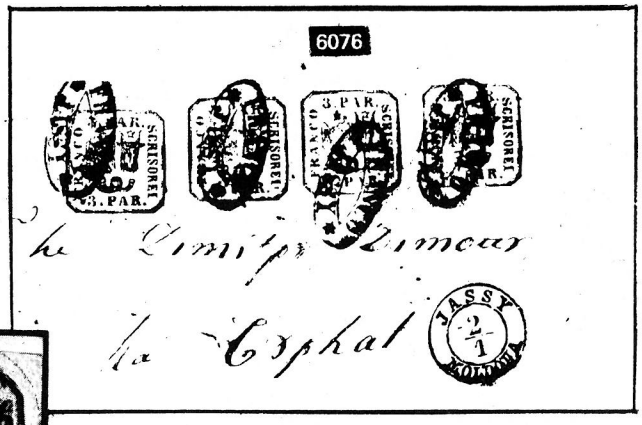

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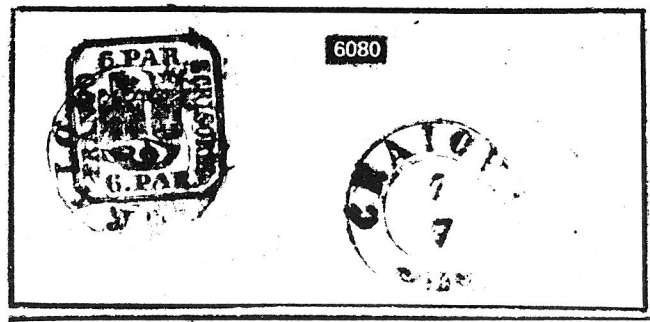

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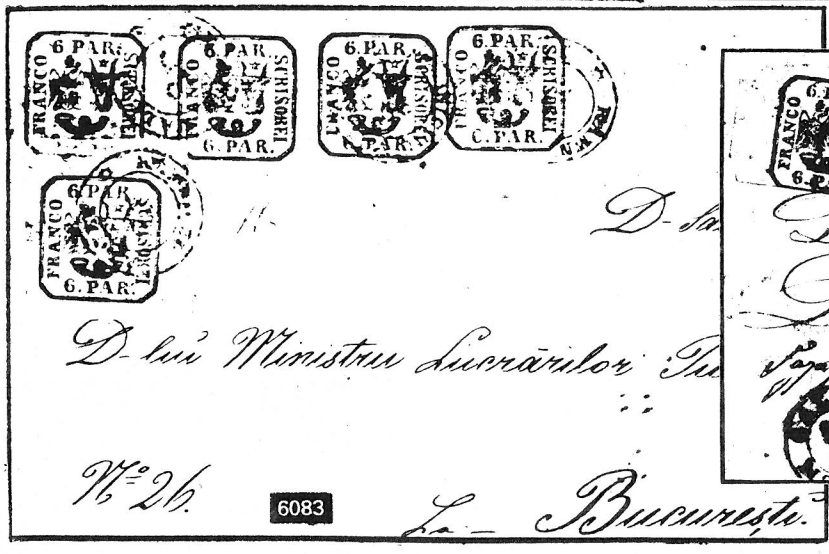

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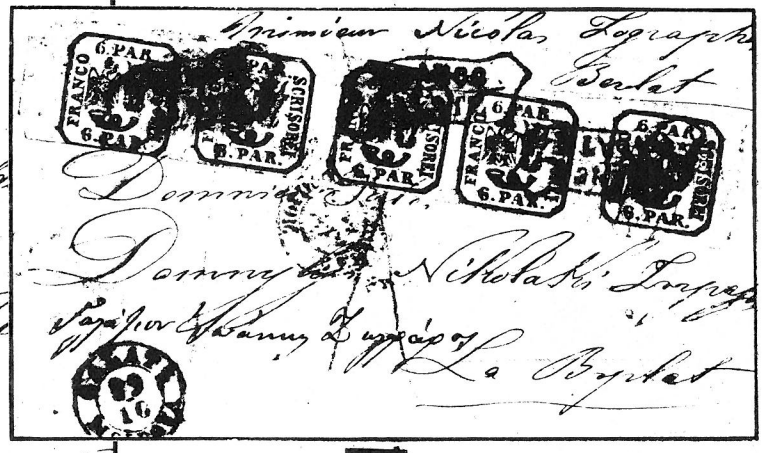

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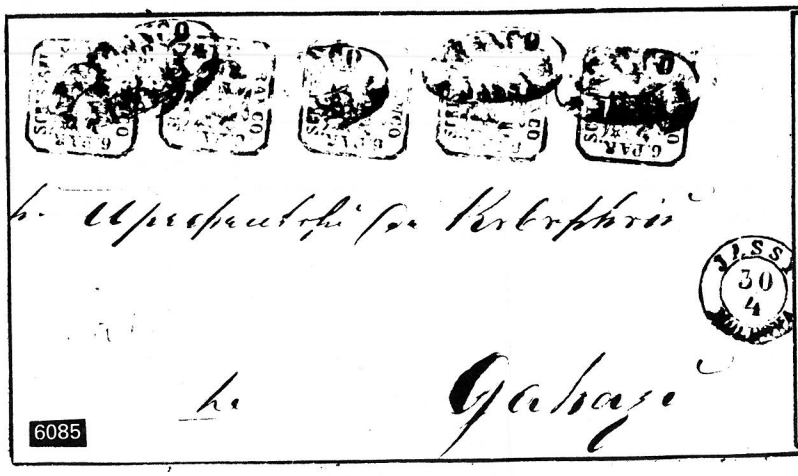
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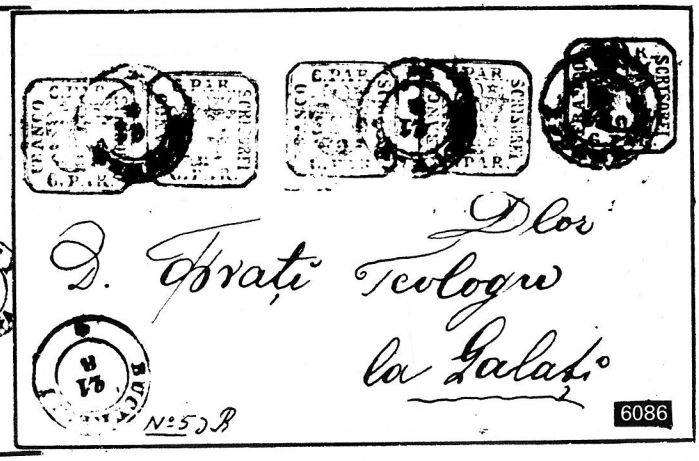
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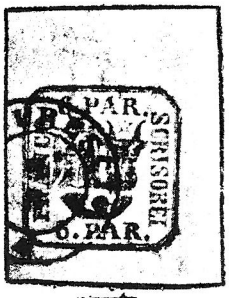
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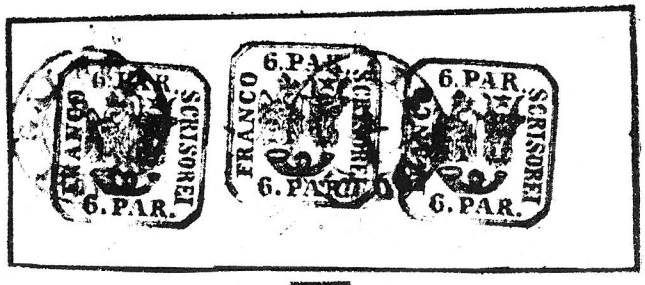
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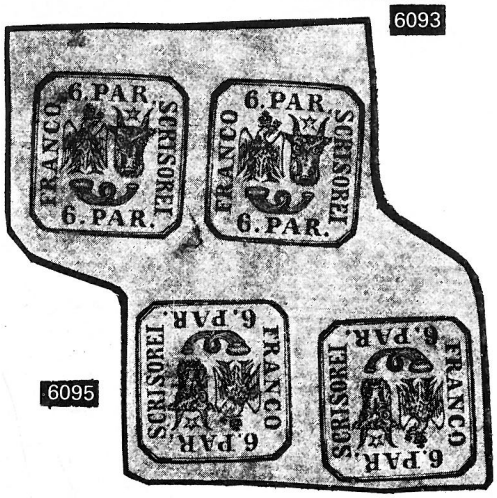
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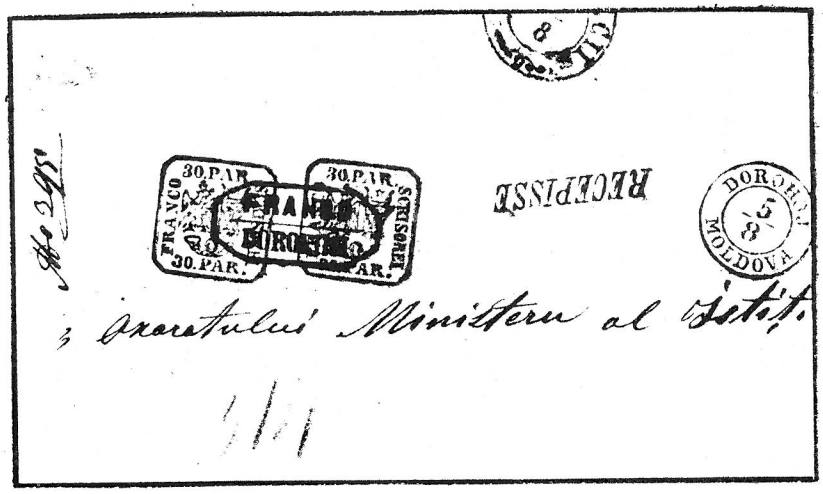
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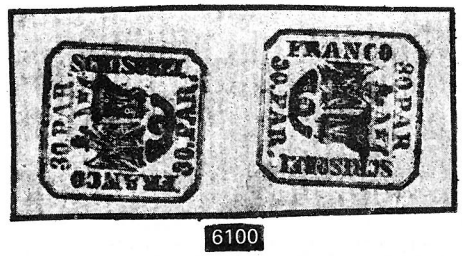
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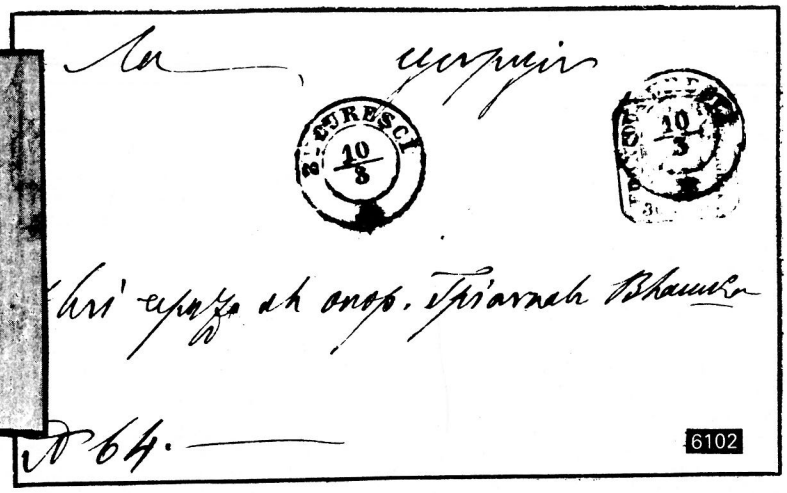

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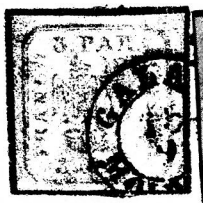

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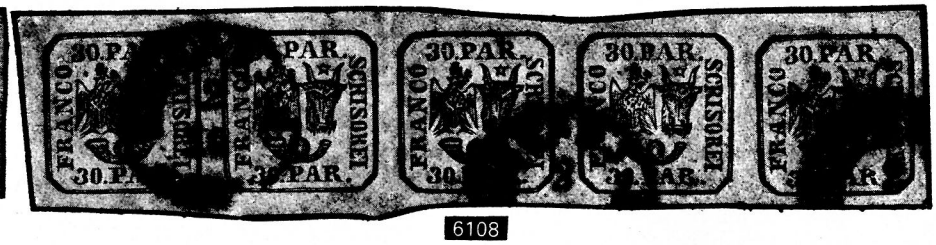

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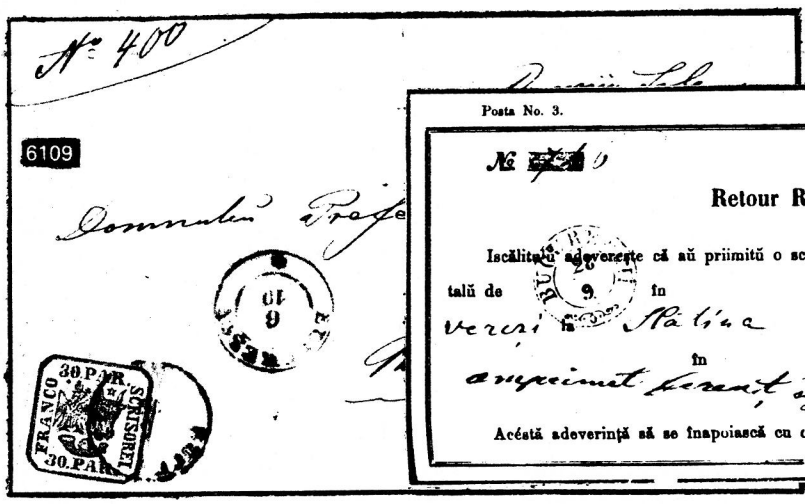

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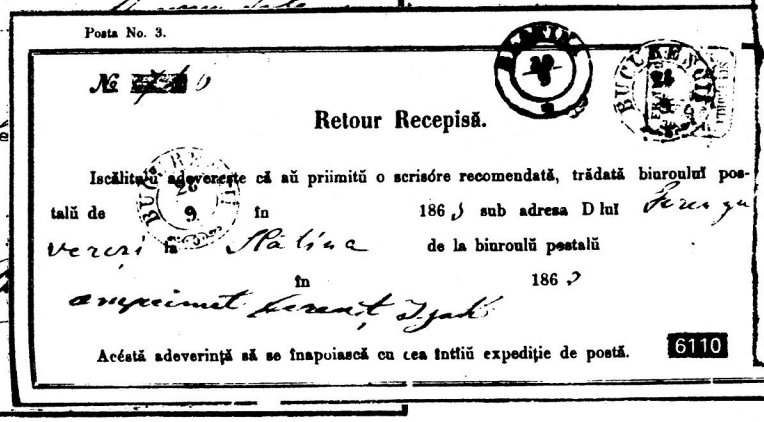

Posta No. 3.
Retour Recepisă.
Iscălitul adeverez că aŭ priimitŭ o scrisóre recomendată, trădată biuroului postalŭ de
fn
186
sub adresa D lui
de la biuroulŭ postalŭ
fn
186
Această adeverinţă să se înapoiască cu cea întîiŭ expediţie de postă.

6110

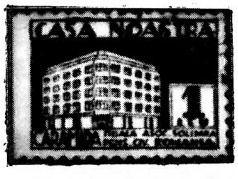
6111

Revenues: Brick Labels

Mircea Teleguţ, Bul. Eroilor No. 22, apt. 13, 1900 Timişoara, Romania

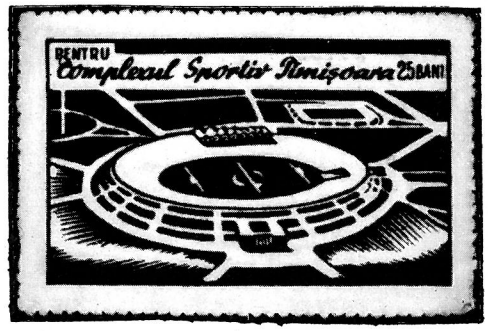
To help pay for constructing various public edifices, "brick labels" were printed and sold. Each etiquette's buyer was considered to have donated one brick to a particular building. Below, we present some of these stickers.

The first, a green etiquette, measures 28 x 18 mm. Printed on unwatermarked paper, its perforation gauges 12½. It depicts a four story corner building and displays a text which reads: "CASA NOASTRA/ 1 LEU/ CARAMIDA/ FILIALA ASOC. SOLIDARA PENS. CIV. ROMANIA" (translation: Our House / 1 Leu/ Brick/ Mutual Association Branch Civilian Pensioners Romania).



The second, in yellowish green, is 56 x 37 mm. Also on unwatermarked paper, it is perforated 11½. It shows a building in the mountains and an anchor (as a symbol of seaman). Its inscription, "CONF. APROB. M. MUNCII No. 60552-1937/ TIMBRUL CARAMIDA/ 5 LEI/ CAMINUL MARINARILOR" translates: "In accord with Dept. of Labor approval No. 60552-1937/ Brick Label/ 5 Lei/ Seamen's Home". The serial number (No. 408 D) at bottom suggests a limited issue.

A third one is brown, 60 x 40 mm., it too appears on unwatermarked paper. This one is ungummed and likewise perforated 11½. It pictures a sports stadium and the text reads: "PENTRU Complexul Sportiv Timişoara 25 BANI" (translation: For the Timisoara Sports Complex 25 Bani).



Additional and back copies of this bulletin can be ordered for $2.00/copy.

Early Telegraph Service in Romania

Reprinted from *The American Philatelist* **March 1984**

by George Pataki

The first telegraph service in the Romanian Principalities was organized in Walachia in 1854, during the Crimean War. The French armies, allied with the Turks against Russia maintained a military base in Dobrudja. Their operation extended to Ruschuk (Russe, Bulgaria). A French engineering unit commanded by Captain l'Amie was headquartered in Bucharest. Needing to communicate with their troops, they built a telegraph line between Bucharest and Giurgiu, extending it to Ruschuk.

During the same year, the Austrian armies had entered parts of Moldavia and Walachia. They asked permission to establish a telegraph line connecting Bucharest, Ploiesti, and Brasov. This line would be for the use of both the Austrian army and civilian population. Stirbei, the Romanian ruler, approved the request with the condition that both the telegraph lines and offices be under Romanian government authority, and that the service be handled by Austrians until Romanians could be trained for the job. The Austrians would be required to establish a school for Romanian trainees in Bucharest.

During 1855, first the Ploiesti-Buzau-Braila, and later the Bucharest-Craiova and Bucharest-Pitesti lines were set up. In Moldavia, telegraph services were established between Jassy, Vaslui, Barlad, Focsani, Tecuci, and Galati. Another line between Jassy – Targu Frumos – Targu Neamt – Falticeni – Suceava was continued into the Austrian Empire.

In 1857, Romanians replaced most of the foreign telegraph clerks in Moldavia, the telegraph services having been nationalized by the Romanian government. Moldavia and Walachia gradually achieved unification of postal services between September 1862 and August 1864. On August 29, 1864, postal and telegraph services were combined under the single united administration.

Regulations

On January 1, 1865, the first postal-telegraph law came into effect, improving and extending postal-telegraph services. Over the years, new laws amended various regulatory articles, created new ones, changed postal and telegraph rates, and created new services.

The February 1870 Postal-Telegraph Law established domestic twenty-word inter-county telegram fees of one leu and fifty bani, and one leu for the same sent within the same county or locality.

A new postal-telegraph law took effect on July 1, 1871. Following are portions of Titles I and II of Part II, regarding telegraph service:

Title I

Art. 8. The telegraph offices are of 3 categories:

a) Offices with around-the-clock service.

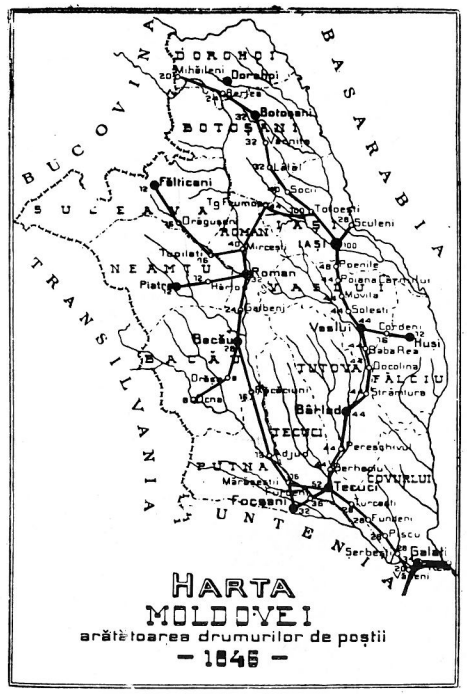
b) Offices with full-time service, open to the public from 7 AM to 9 PM, between April 1 and September 30, and from 8 AM to 9 PM between October 1 and March 31.

c) Offices with part-time service, open to the public from 8 AM to 12 Noon, and from 2 PM to 6 PM.

Art. 9. Messages can be sent in any language; however, they must be written using Latin characters.

Art. 10. Only for the State's correspondence, can coded telegrams, composed totally or in part of numbers and letters, be permitted.

Map of Walachia showing the postal routes of 1833.



Map of Moldavia showing the postal routes of 1846.

Art. 11. Original telegram forms will be kept in deposit one year from their dates. All possible measures will be taken to preserve their confidentiality. After this period, they will be burned and official attestation of this will be provided.

Art. 12. Original messages can be communicated only to senders or addressees whose identities have been verified. The senders or addressees have the right to ask for certified copies of telegrams they have sent or received.

Art. 13. The general directorate of posts and telegraphs has the obligation to give courts, district attorneys and prosecutors, such private messages as are considered necessary to discover crimes or unlawful acts.

Title II

Art. 14. Payment for the telegram and supplementary fees is required at the time of presentation.

Art. 15. The fee for a domestic telegram of 1-20 words, from an office to any other, is 1 Leu. For each group of 10 additional words, the additional fee is 50 Bani.

Art. 16. While the date, time and the locality of the sender are transmitted free of charge, any other words written by the sender on the telegram form are counted and charged.

Art. 17. Details rules for counting of message units.

Art. 18. Delivery of telegraph messages to the residence or to the recipient's post office is free. The fee for sending telegrams by mail or express to localities where there do not exist telegraph bureaus, will be established by an administrative regulation.

Art. 19. A telegram's sender has the right to registration; when a message is registered, the office of destination will telegraphically return to sender a copy of the message sent, name of the recipient and time of the delivery. If delivery could not be effected, such circumstances will be communicated in order that the sender may give instructions enabling delivery.

Art. 20. The registration fee is twice that amount specified in Art. 15.

Art. 21. A telegraph message sent to several addressees in the same locality or to one addressee, at several residences, is charged 50 Bani per copy, besides those fees stipulated in Art. 15. Senders may not send copies to other persons, of any telegrams sent to the Ruler, ministers or other authorities.

Art. 22. If a telegram is forced to pursue its addressee through offices within the country, it will be charged as many times the fee stipulated in Art. 15, as the number of offices it was forwarded to.

Art. 23. The sender should give in writing all instructions regarding delivery, such as delivery at residence paid response for registered telegrams or if it shou be forwa..ed.

Art. 24 Paid responses are charged according to the number of words designated by the sender; in conformity with Art. 15, the minimum for a paid reply is 20 words. If an answer exceeds the number of words paid for, the replier will be charged an additional fee for each excess group of 10 words.

Art. 25. A telegram's sender is entitled to stop its transmission, either at its mailing or its receiving place, but the fee charged is not returnable.

Art. 26. International telegrams will be charged according to such fees stipulated by international agreements.

Art. 27. Payment of the principal fee, for both domestic and international telegrams, shall be made using telegraph stamps affixed on the form, either by the sender or the telegraph clerk. Likewise, all other additional fees which can be predetermined can be paid with stamps while deposits, fees for copy, will be paid in cash. Telegraph stamps affixed on forms shall be obliterated with a dated cancellation at the time the telegram is recorded.

Art. 28. When stamps affixed by the sender on telegram forms found in a mail box or sent for mailing to a telegraph office do not cover the entire fee, the addressee is obligated to pay the missing amount plus a surtax of 50 Bani. If this is refused, the telegram is scrapped.

Art. 29. The government is authorized to print telegraph stamps of 25 and 50 Bani, 1 Leu, 2 Lei and 5 Lei. These stamps will be sold to private citizens only by post-telegraph offices and only at their face value.

The above law was amended by subsequent ones. The use of telegraph stamps was abolished on December 31, 1873. On January 1, 1877, a new law increased the fees for sending a telegram by fifty percent: a domestic message containing one to twenty words cost one leu and fifty bani; and any extra group of ten words, an additional seventy-five bani.

On April 1, 1880, another postal-telegraph law established the domestic fee at eight bani per word (five bani on local deliveries); for a fee corresponding to eight words (sixty-four bani), a telegram could receive the notation "Urgent" and have transmission priority over others; the fee for delivery confirmation was made equal to that for ten words (eighty bani); and registration cost the equivalent of twenty words (one leu and sixty bani).

On March 1, 1886, the authorities' privilege of sending free telegrams was abolished. As they had to be paid for thereafter through the officials' accounts, the number of governmental telegrams dropped drastically.

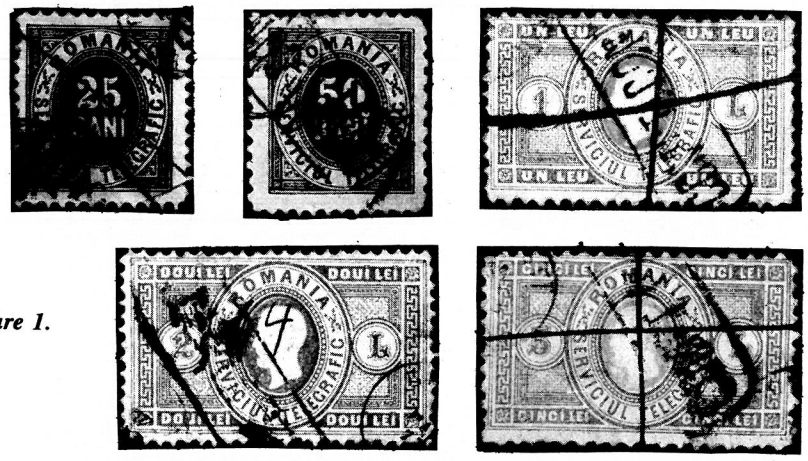


Figure 1.

In October 1891, the postal-telegraph and railroad administrations signed an agreement, and accordingly private and official telegrams also could be presented at railway stations. The fees to be charged matched those at the telegraph offices.

On July 9, 1892, yet another new postal-telegraph law was enacted but contained no significant changes. On May 5, 1895, one more new law reduced the fee from eight to five bani per word, but required a twenty-five-bani surtax on every telegram. Those who customarily sent longer messages — mainly businesses — benefited from this change. Also, a new kind of greeting-telegram was introduced. These contained space for an address and a signature only — no other message — and cost twenty-five bani. Such could be sent only for the New Year and on namedays.

Stamps

The set of five stamps introduced by Article 29 of the Law of July 1, 1871, consists of the following: 25 bani, yellowish brown; 50 bani, blue; 1 leu, grey-violet; 2 lei, yellow-orange; and 5 lei, green (Figure 1).

The ban-denominations measure 23.5-24 by 26.5-27 mm (from perforation tip to perforation tip). They show the value figures and monetary units ("25 BANI" and "50 BANI") embossed. The leu-denominations measure about 42-42.5 by 26-26.5 mm (from perforation tip to perforation tip) and display an embossed portrait of Prince Carol. The overall sizes vary due to perforation process inaccuracy. The perfs range from 9 to about 11, simple or compound.

Judging by the type of perforation and the style of the designs, it can be presumed that these stamps were produced in Vienna, Austria. The embossing was effected in order to make counterfeiting more difficult. The inscription on all five stamps, in addition to the denomination, reads "ROMANIA SERVICIUL TELEGRAFIC" (Romania Telegraph Service). The paper is thick, white, and unwatermarked.

On a variety of the 2-leu, a distorted letter "I" makes the lower-right-corner denomination read "DOUJ LEI" instead of "DOUI LEI" (Figure 2).

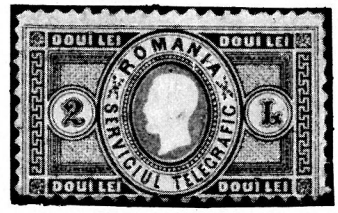


Figure 2.

Telegraph stamps were withdrawn on December 31, 1873. Beginning on January 1, 1874, all telegram fees had to be paid in cash, as had been the case before July 1, 1871. Thus, these stamps, the only telegraph stamps issued by the Romanian posts, were used for about two and a half years. Judging by the prices given in the 1974 *Romanian Catalogue* (3,600 lei for a mint set and 50 lei for a used set), mint stamps are much more difficult to find than used, except for the 2-leu denomination, which is listed for the same low price both mint and used.

Obliterations

Obliteration of the telegraph stamps was required with two handstamps and by pen marks, in order to make fraudulent reuse impossible. One of the two handstamps was made exclusively for use on telegraph stamps. It was always applied in black ink, and consists of "COMPT. CONTROLA TU" (Calculation Verified) in a rectangular frame with rounded corners, measuring 48 by 12 mm (Figure 3).

Figure 3

stamps. It was always applied in black ink, and consists of "COMPT. CONTROLA-TU" (Calculation Verified) in a rectangular frame with rounded corners, measuring 48 by 12 mm (Figure 3).

The second marking was a town and date cancel. Although it was specially made for telegraph stamps, it also is found on postage stamps. It was applied mostly in blue, but sometimes also in black or grey. These "thimble cancels" consist of a single circle, 17 mm in diameter, with the town name on the top in sans-serif type, the three-line date in the center with the year denoted only by its last two digits, and a small five-pointed star at the bottom.

In addition to these cancellations, most telegraph stamps also were obliterated with manuscript black-ink markings, such as a cross, an "x," or a number. According to the 1974 *Romanian Catalogue,* these types of "thimble cancels" (Figure 4) are known from the following localities:

Adjud, Alexandria, Bacau, Bechet, Berlad, Bottosani, Braila, Bucuresci, Bucuresti, Buhusi, Buzeu, Calafat, Calarasi, Caracal, Campina, Campu-lung, Comarnicu, Craiova, Curtea D'Arges, Dorohoiu, Dragasani, Falciu, Focsani, Folticeni, Galatzi, Gaesti, Giurgiu, Husi, Jassy, Jslazu, Margineni, Mihaileni, Mizil, Moinesti, Oltenita, Pascani, Peatra, Pitesti, Ploesti, Predeal, Rimn. Sarat, Rimnicul-Valcea, Roman, Rosi de Vede, Slatina, Tecuciu, Tirgu-Frumos, Tirgu-Jiu, Tg. Neamt, Tirgu Ocnii, Tirgu Vestei, Turnu Magurele, Turnu Severin, Urdiceni, Urlati, Valeni de Munte, Vaslui, Zimnicea, Oficiul Princiar (the last-named is the Prince's Office in Bucuresti).

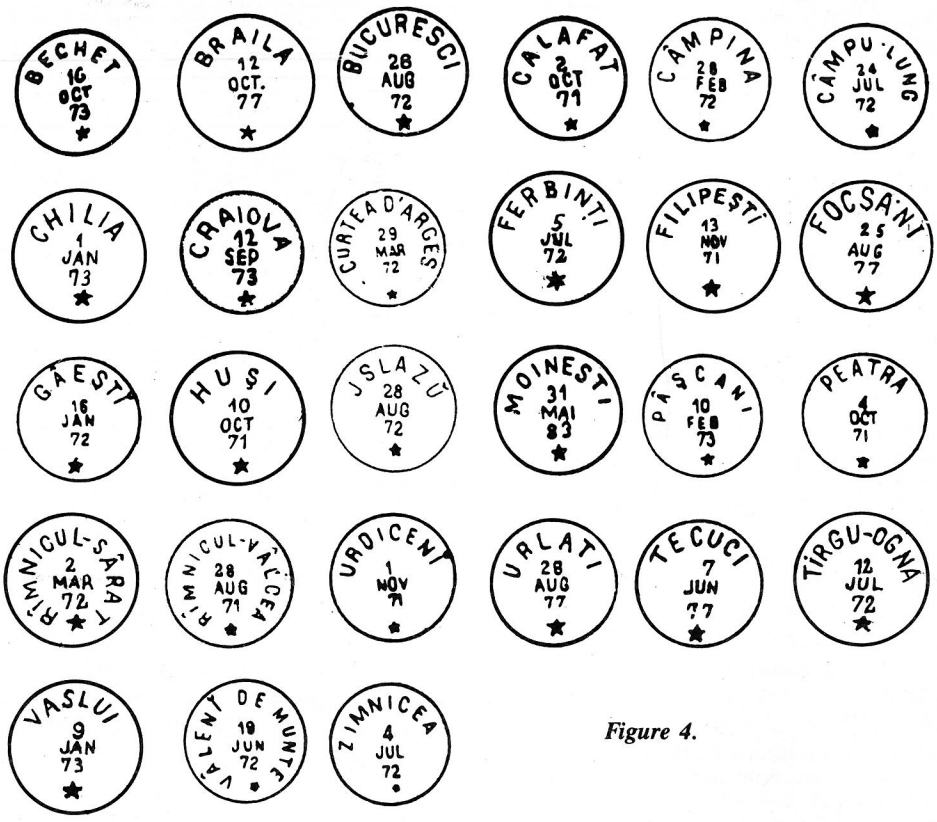

BECHET 16 OCT 73
BRAILA 12 OCT. 77
BUCURESCI 28 AUG 72
CALAFAT 2 OCT 71
CÂMPINA 28 FEB 72
CÂMPU-LUNG 24 JUL 72
CHILIA 1 JAN 73
CRAIOVA 12 SEP 73
CURTEA D'ARGES 29 MAR 72
FERBINȚI 5 JUL 72
FILIPEȘTI 13 NOV 71
FOCȘANI 25 AUG 77
GAESTI 16 JAN 72
HUȘI 10 OCT 71
JSLAZU 28 AUG 72
MOINEȘTI 31 MAI 83
PĂȘCANI 10 FEB 73
PEATRA 4 OCT 71
RIMNICUL-SĂRAT 2 MAR 72
RIMNICUL-VALCEA 28 AUG 71
URDICENI 1 NOV 71
URLATI 28 AUG 77
TECUCI 7 JUN 77
TÎRGU-OGNA 12 JUL 72
VASLUI 9 JAN 73
VALENI DE MUNTE 19 JUN 72
ZIMNICEA 4 JUL 72

Figure 4.

For those interested in early postal stationery used to send telegrams, the following articles are recommended reading: "Early Romanian Telegram Forms," by Dumitru Paşşalega, *Romanian Philatelic Studies,* Nos. 1 and 2, 1979, and "On Early Romanian Telegram Forms," by Don Heller, *RPS,* No. 1, 1980. AP

REVIEW:

Almanahul Filatelic 1984
(Philatelic Almanac 1984)

Published in Rompresfilatelia, in Bucharest, the 1984 edition has 216 pages and sells for 20 Lei. As with almanacs published in previous years, this one also mixed philatelic studies with non-philatelic articles, poems, short stories, cartoons, jokes, crossword puzzles, political and historical pieces, trivia and marginalia.

The following contents should interest Romanian specialists: "The First Postal Stationery of the Republic", by Emanoil Săvoiu; "Dated Pre-Stamp Markings", by Kiriac Dragomir; "The Earliest Experimental Mail Transport by Air Train", by Mihai Popovici; "Postal Services During the Fourth Decade", by Iosif Micu; "Postmarks with the name POD (Bridge)", by Ion Şahinian; "The Austrian Posts and the United Principalities", by Emanoil Munteanu; "The Beginnings of the Postal Service on the S.M.R. Vessels", by Anghel Vlăsceanu; "Rural Branch Post Offices", by Mihail Ionita-Alesu; "Rapid Posts in Transylvania", by Ion Ilea; "Pen Obliterations on Romanian Postage Stamps", by Ion Ilea; "Uncatalogued Romanian Postal Stationary", by Emanoil Săvoiu; "The History of the Rural Posts in Romania", by Dumitru Paşşalega; "125th Anniversary of the Issuance of the Bison Heads", by Leonard Paşcanu; "Special Notations on Mail", by Silviu Dragomir; "Varieties of the Postal Stationary with (imprinted) 'Wheat Ear' type stamps", by Emanoil Săvoiu; "Types of Paper Used to Print the 1948-1982 Romanian Postal Issues", by Sergiu Gabureac.

These and other excellent articles provide important reading for interested researchers. However, this work shows several technical deficiencies. Many articles have no supporting illustrations at all. The existing photographs' poor quality make them less useful; some pictures are incorrectly identified; other figures appear in the wrong article. Furthermore, the texts of some articles seem confusing. While we might lay the blame for some of these faults on mistakes of the authors, the typesetter and the editor seem to have caused most of them. Some articles look like they have been shortened without proper editing. The text of one refers to 11 illustrations, but pictures only 8, with one of them upside down. Poor editing and paste-up work spoil the efforts of the hard working and conscientious writers.

Despite all these shortcomings, the almanac should prove to be an important work, in that it presents the recent studies by leading Romanian philatelists.

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ISTORIA POSTALA A SIBIULUI (Postal History of Sibiu) by Emanoil Munteanu, with a large chapter on the **HOHE RINNE** local posts, is available from the **EDITOR** for $11.00.

Articles for the bulletin

The readers are invited to send the editor original research articles. Short notes or lengthy studies are equally welcome. Good illustrations are important. Articles sent in Romanian language will be translated by the editor.

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